MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 JANUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

IRNA announced that Iranian forces launched a new offensive in the central sector the night of 13-14 January, capturing 100 sq km of Iranian territory that had been under Iraqi occupation since 1980. Iran claimed to have inflicted over 1,000 casualties in the "limited" operation, entitled Karbala 6. Iranian forces reportedly captured 11 strategic heights in the Sumar area and seized Iraq's Abu 'Ubaydah border post. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraq's II Army Corps "completely destroyed" the attacking forces, except in one area where the Iranians managed to penetrate an Iraqi company's positions and "pushed numbers of infiltrators to the border outpost of Abu 'Ubaydah." However, an Iraqi force subsequently "purged" the area and captured or killed the Iranians in it, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. The Iraqi agency carried a statement in which Iraq claimed to have killed thousands of Iranians and captured hundreds.

Iran also claimed further successes in the Karbala 5 sector, where Iranian troops were "edging toward" Basra after capturing 100 sq km in a 13 January advance, according to IRNA. The overall Iraqi casualty toll in Karbala 5 rose to 18,500, IRNA asserted, while the number of Iraqi planes downed reached 38, including several Tupolev bombers. In contrast, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses said that Iraq's III Army Corps confronted and destroyed all Iranian units which attempted to advance.

Iraqi aircraft carried out a second wave of attacks on Iranian cities 13 January, according to military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses. The targets were Qom, Dezful, Tabriz, Esfahan, and Bakhtaran, which received the "full load" of 30 planes. IRNA reported that over 180 civilians were killed in raids on Iranian cities 13 January, with Bakhtaran suffering the largest death toll. The agency announced that Iran retaliated by firing a surface-to-surface missile at Baghdad 14 January. An Iraqi statement carried by Voice of the Masses said the attack caused civilian casualties, but as in other recent missile attacks on Baghdad it did not say how many. An Iraqi communique stated earlier that Iranian artillery and air attacks on Iraq 13 January killed 6 civilians and injured 102. The communique said an Iranian plane was downed over Iraq, though this was denied by an Iranian officer in an IRNA report.

In the Gulf, Iraqi planes hit another large maritime target 13 January, the Iraqi communique reported. Tehran radio cited a REUTER report that a Kuwaiti oil tanker was hit by a missile in the Gulf early 14 January.

Jordan

King Husayn criticized U.S. Mideast policy in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, asserting that U.S. envoy Richard Murphy brought "nothing new" to Amman, where he was told that U.S. credibility in the Middle East is "almost zero." Husayn said the United States cannot now play the kind of role it envisaged at the time of President Reagan's 1982 initiative, though the United States can still play a "positive role" through an international conference. He expressed hope that the European states will persuade the United States to change its attitude toward an international conference and help bring U.S. and Soviet viewpoints closer. Regarding the possibility of a resumption in the PLO-Jordanian dialogue, Husayn stressed that "nothing can be done" unless the PLO is prepared to reconsider its position.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli planes raided a "terrorist" target in the Al-Biqa' Valley 13 January, scoring "good hits" on a training camp belonging to a Syrian-sponsored organization, Jerusalem radio reported. No missiles were fired at the Israeli planes, although the target area is within the range of Syrian SAM's. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said the Israeli planes targeted "Fatah Uprising" positions near Yanta, killing 3 persons and wounding 12 others.

ICO Attendance — Beirut radio reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil intends to attend the ICO summit conference in Kuwait now that the Lebanese issue has been included on the summit agenda at Lebanon's request.

Israel

Irish Protest —Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry has made a "sharp protest" to the Israeli ambassador in Britain over the killing of an Irish UNIFIL soldier in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli ambassador, based in London, was summoned to Dublin to receive the protest.

Economic Measures — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir described the 10-percent devaluation of the shekel as a "one-time move" that will promote a "new era of growth and progress." Speaking in a 13 January interview with Jerusalem radio, Shamir also denied any direct connection between the Lavi project and the government's decision not to cut the defense budget. Shamir said he hoped for continued development of the Lavi aircraft "while not impairing other important interests of the defense estabishment."

Libya-Chad Conflict

Libya launched an attack on Zouar region 13 January in attempt to regain control of that section of Tibesti Province, according to an AFP report citing "reliable" Ndjamena sources. Chadian sources also disclosed that the Libyans are sending their troops into northern Chad via Niger and Sudan, AFP stated. The

sources said Libya sent between 700 and 1,00 men through Niger with artillery and tanks mounted on transporters between late December and early January. The Libyans have also sent units of motorized infantry and armor through Sudan to rout the Chadian forces who threw Libyan troops out of Fada.

Pakistan

Following recent unrest and violence, a curfew has been imposed on Hyderabad, Latifabad, and an area inside Karachi, according to Karachi radio. The curfews will remain in effect until further notice, the radio said.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 009 *14 January 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Syria's Al-Shar' Receives Arabic League Committee *[Damascus]* ..... A 1
Group Threatens Muslim Leaders at ICO Summit *[VOL]* ..... A 1
'Arafat on Palestinian Troubles, Goals *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 5 Jan]* ..... A 1
'Arafat Continues Algiers Visit, Talks *[Algiers VOP]* ..... A 3
Meets With Messadia *[Algiers]* ..... A 3
PLO Accuses Syria of 'Propaganda Campaign' *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 3
PLO Communique on Israeli Raid on Maghdushah *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

KUNA: ICO Secretary General Pirzada Arrives ..... C 1
Meets With Al-Sabah ..... C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Oil Minister To Visit USSR, Norway, Egypt ..... C 1
Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message; Departs ..... C 1
Tunisian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit ..... C 1

UAE

Turkish Cypriot Atakol Arrives on Official Visit *[ANATOLIA]* ..... C 1
Zayid Receives Pakistani President's Message *[WAKH]* ..... C 2
Lebanese Envoy Delivers Al-Jumayyil Message ..... C 2

EGYPT

Mubarak, Spain's Gonzalez Hold Closed Session ..... D 1
Gonzalez Comments on Talks ..... D 1
Abu Ghazalah Receives Visiting U.S. Admiral ..... D 1
Saudi Oil Minister Expected in Cairo 'This Week' *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 10 Jan]* ..... D 1
Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Departs 13 Jan ..... D 1

IRAQ

Recent Fighting Detailed in Reports, Communiques ..... E 1
Planes Hit Bakhtaran Targets ..... E 1
Communique No 2,525 ..... E 1
Air Force Attacks Esfahan ..... E 2
Qom, Dezful, Tabriz Raided ..... E 2
Communique No 2,526 ..... E 2
Commander Describes Offensive ..... E 3
Planes Raid Missile Battery ..... E 3
II Army Corps Commander Cited ..... E 4
Missile Hits Baghdad ..... E 4

JORDAN

Husayn Rejects Proposal To Meet Shamir, Mubarak *[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jan]* ..... F 1
King Husayn Speaks on U.S. Policy, Other Issues *[Monte Carlo]* ..... F 1
AL-RA'Y on King Husayn's LE MONDE Interview *[13 Jan]* ..... F 3
AL-DUSTUR Views Shamir Peace Process Statements *[10 Jan]* ..... F 4

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil Receives Arab Good Offices Committee *[VOL]* ..... G 1
President Reportedly To Attend Islamic Summit ..... G 1
Saudi Diplomat Abducted in West Beirut 13 Jan *[AFP]* ..... G 1
15 Casualties in 13 Jan Israeli Air Raid *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Parcel Bomb Addressed to Minister Birri *[VOL]* ..... G 1
Gunmen Fire at Amal Official's Home; PSP Clash *[RFL]* ..... G 1
Amal Denies Report ..... G 1
PSP Source Denies Clash *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 2
'Freemen of Beirut' in Separate Attack on Amal *[RFL]* ..... G 2
Sa'adah on Palestinian Presence, Economy *[VOL]* ..... G 2
Paqraduni on Summit Meeting, Solution *[RFL]* ..... G 2

SYRIA

PNF Meets, Condemns United States, Israel ..... H 1
Al-Asad Receives Former Egyptian Minister ..... H 1
Assembly Speaker Receives Former PNC Speaker ..... H 1
Soviet Religion Official Meets With Minister ..... H 1

ISRAEL

Murphy Briefs Shamir on Talks in Jordan, Egypt ..... I 1
Shamir Reiterates Position on Iran Contra Affair ..... I 1
MA'ARIV: U.S.'Tarnished' Friendship Over Iran *[13 Jan]* ..... I 1
Differences Delay Signing of Economic Package ..... I 2
Shamir on Economic Plan ..... I 2
Peres, Nisim on Objectives ..... I 3
Nisim Discusses Goals ..... I 4
Levi Submits Plan for 6 New Settlements ..... I 5
Soviet Peace Delegation Arrives 13 Jan *['AL HAMISHMAR 14 Jan]* ..... I 5

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

GUNT President, Delegation Arrive for Talks *[VOGAH]* ..... Q 1

LIBYA

JANA on Clashes Among Habre Forces in Chad ..... Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi: Reagan 'Endangering Humanity' *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
Islamic Call Society Issues Communique ..... Q 1

MAURITANIA

President Receives Message From SDAR Leader ..... Q 2

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Leaves for Portugal 13 Jan ..... Q 2

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message on Chad ..... Q 3
Iran's Besharati on Iraqi Opposition Contacts ..... Q 3
Al-Mirghani Receives Maltese President ..... Q 3
Commander in Chief Briefs Al-Mirghani on South ..... Q 3
SPLA Forces Intercept Convoy, Fight 3 Battles *[Radio SPLA]* ..... Q 3
SPLA: Army Takes Food Destined for Civilians *[Radio SPLA]* ..... Q 4
Eastern Region Official on Refugees, Security ..... Q 4

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Egypt's Ghali Arrives for Joint Commission Talks ..... S 1
Scientific Research Agreement Signed With GDR ..... S 1

CHAD

Launches Attack on Zouar ..... S 1
Sending Troops Via Niger, Sudan ..... S 1

GABON

French-African Economic Group Session Opens ..... S 1

ZAIRE

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives 8 Jan ..... S 2
Transport Projects Discussed ..... S 2
Senegalese Parliamentarians Arrive 8 Jan ..... S 2
Local, General Elections To Begin 31 May ..... S 3
AZAP Condemns World Indifference to Chad ..... S 3

WEST AFRICA

IVORY COAST

Radio: Economy, Security Focus of Shultz Visit ..... T 1

LIBERIA

New NDPL Executive Committee Constituted ..... T 1

NIGERIA

Commentary Examines Shultz Visit to Africa ..... T 1
Paper Questions Army Plan To Acquire PRC Weapons ..... T 2
Newspapers Praise ANC on 75th Anniversary ..... T 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Official Talks Begin With GDR Justice Minister ..... U 1

BOTSWANA

Chiepe: No Border Problems With Bophuthatswana ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Speaks at People's Assembly Opening ..... U 1
Proceedings Detailed ..... U 1

NAMIBIA

One White School Applies for 'Open' Status *[THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER 12 Jan]* ..... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Easing of Regulations for Election Considered *[THE CITIZEN 13 Jan]* ..... U 2
Aviation Experts Arrive for Machel Crash Inquiry ..... U 3
Modise: ANC's Guerrilla War 'To Escalate' *[Gaborone]* ..... U 3
Tambo Previews Upcoming Meeting With Shultz *[Harare]* ..... U 4
Speaks on Resistance Efforts *[Harare]* ..... U 4
Talks Deadlocked Over Four Held by Zambia ..... U 4
Kaunda: Document To Overthrow Malawi 'Authentic' *[BUSINESS DAY 13 Jan]* ..... U 4
Confirmation Vindicates RSA ..... U 5
Johannesburg Comments on Possible 'Trade War' ..... U 5
'Going Rate' for RSA Debt Same as Mexico *[BUSINESS DAY 13 Jan]* ..... U 6
Indaba Presents Constitution Proposals to Heunis ..... U 6
Information Bureau Issues 13 Jan Unrest Report ..... U 6
Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems ..... U 6
14 Jan Press Review ..... U 6
Correction to Beatrix Mine Workforce Resigns ..... U 7

ZIMBABWE

Matabeleland Elections on Hold Due to Dissidents *[THE HERALD 31 Dec]* ..... U 7

Syria's Al-Shar' Receives Arabic League Committee

JN131725 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received today members of the committee of the Arab League Council that will discuss ending the internecine fighting in the camps in Lebanon. The delegation consists of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, head of the committee and Algerian foreign minister; Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi; YAR Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani; Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, Mauritanian foreign affairs and cooperation minister; Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs; Taieb Sahbani, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs; and Hamad Salim al-Maqami, UAE permanent representative at the Arab League. The meeting was also attended by Diya'allah al-Fattal and Yusuf Shakkur, the foreign minister's advisers, in addition to the ambassadors of Algeria, Kuwait, the YAR, Tunisia, Jordan, and Mauritania in Damascus.

The meeting discussed the situation in the camps in Lebanon, efforts to end the internecine fighting, and the evacuation of Maghdushah. The committee members and head expressed their faith that Syria — with its pan-Arab views and principled positions, which always reinforce Arab unity, preserve Arab blood, and continuously call for uniting efforts against the Zionist enemy — will not spare any effort to create an atmosphere suitable for ending the internecine fighting in the camps.

Al-Shar' expressed appreciation for the fraternal Arab feelings expressed by the committee toward Syria and the great confidence in Syria's distinguished pan-Arab role in joint Arab action, in helping free fraternal Lebanon from its ordeal, and in reinforcing the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Al-Shar' stressed that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad — realizing the extent of Zionist ambitions in Lebanon, the complicated internal situation in Lebanon, the danger to its security, and the negative aspects of the fighting between brothers — will not spare any effort to end the fighting and spare Arab blood.

Group Threatens Muslim Leaders at ICO Summit

NC130530 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The Islamic Revolutionary Movement [Al-Harakah al-Islamiyah al-Thawriyah], which had claimed responsibility for hijacking an Iraqi airliner and blowing it up last December, has warned the kings and presidents of Muslim states not to participate in the ICO summit scheduled to be held in Kuwait on 26 January. The underground organization distributed a statement in Beirut last night in which it threatened to turn Kuwait into a tomb for most of the Islamic countries' leaders. The organization said the ICO would try to rehabilitate the Egyptian regime, Morocco's King Hassan II, and King Husayn of Jordan, as well as lend its support to what the organization called the crimes of the Iraqi regime under President Saddam Husayn.

'Arafat on Palestinian Troubles, Goals

PM131025 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish
5 Jan 87 p 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Mats Lundegard in Baghdad — date not given]

[Text] It looks today as if the PLO is in a bad way. Palestinian camps are under heavy attack in Lebanon. A political alliance with Jordan that could perhaps have been very promising has disintegrated. Conflicts within the organization are raging as usual, and the world seems to be turning its back on the Palestinians' problems.

But Yasir 'Arafat — the PLO personified perhaps — sounds quite certain when he talks about reaching Jerusalem one day.

"But of course," he said, "without doubt."

He said it several times, in the end almost in a whisper so that I would understand that he is serious and that he believes in what he says.

"We belong there," he said.

Yasir 'Arafat is a man who knows how to express himself. His conversation is a performance involving many tricks and not a little theatricality. And he seems to be enjoying himself while he makes his case, for that is what he does all the time. He does not always answer questions. Some he dismisses or pretends not to hear; others he takes as points of departure for expositions that can be about something entirely different: a conspiracy, an attack on the Palestinian people, or that people's inalienable rights and burning determination.

We met in a rather dismal office in the guest house where he lives when he visits Baghdad. He has an aide — his old supporter and PLO second-in-command Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. He also has a photographer, who is also perhaps a bodyguard. We talked for perhaps 2 hours late one night.

What does one ask Yasir 'Arafat?

About the difficult position in which the PLO finds itself, for example, the difficulties mentioned above, and so on.

Not surprisingly he rejected all claims that the PLO is becoming isolated or being forgotten. It may find itself on the sidelines temporarily, he seems to admit, since other circumstances overshadow or determine the political situation in the whole of the region.

"How could we achieve peace for ourselves when the whole of the Arab world is in crisis?" he asks rhetorically. "When this senseless war in the Gulf is going on? How can we achieve justice as long as a Camp David agreement remains in force?"

And he rejected any suggestion of splits in the movement:

"Today all Palestinian groups are fighting side by side in the camps in Lebanon," he said.

"We have been faced with political problems ever since we were driven out of our homeland in 1948. . . ."

"We in the PLO are proud of our democratic tradition; it guarantees every individual's right to have his own view."

Both claims are probably true, and they sound good. But they say nothing about the political splits that have always been the PLO's curse — and that have always been exploited as much as possible by 'Arafat's enemies. Nor do they say anything about the questions of how well Yasir 'Arafat controls his political organization.

He also adopts grandiose, long-term perspectives when the PLO's acute problems are mentioned. He pointed out that all national liberation movements in history have taken time. Palestinians are fond of saying this, perhaps as a consolation or a sort of magic spell. 'Arafat points to Rhodesia, India, and Algeria.

"It is we who are moving with the current of history," he said, "and it is they who are fighting against it."

He reiterated the argument when I asked whether the expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank and the overall shift to the right in Israeli politics would not actually work against the interests of the Palestinians. But he also added:

"Time works in many ways. What Israeli leader can guarantee his people that for all time they will have the support of a superpower and that the situation in the Arab world will remain unchanged?"

And also, he says, pleased with his own phrase, that is the case with revolutions "from top to bottom."

He wears a uniform — that is, a green sweater with shoulder boards, but with no insignia of rank, and a large revolver. He wears a brown astrakhan hat with a gleaming badge on it. But when we want to photograph him he dons a kufiyah, the patterned Arab head-covering. In between he is bare-headed, balding, and older-looking in the flesh than in pictures. He likes to laugh, and his tone of voice is constantly changing. He knows how to cultivate a pause, sometimes as a tour de force, sometimes to find the right English word; he is careful with them.

He wears glasses when he looks through the papers that have to be signed. He is not unshaven, as is often said. But his beard is very thin.

He talked about the attacks against the PLO in Lebanon, the so-called camps wars, which have cost several hundred lives and caused major deprivation for thousands of Palestinians in the besieged camps in the last 2 months. Amal, the Shi'ite Lebanese militia, is attacking the Palestinians. The attacks are to keep down the armed Palestinians, the simplest analysis states. They are to prevent the PLO from building up a military "presence" in southern Lebanon and from reviving the war against Israel, with murders and blind revenge throughout all Shi'ite villages as a result.

There is something to be said for this, the simplest of all analyses. Independent sources have been talking all fall about how Palestinian "fighters" [word quoted in English] have again infiltrated the camps in Lebanon. This is logical, even if it is not true; they have nowhere else to go since Jordan closed all the Fatah bureaus last summer. It is not only the Israeli security service that claims that the Palestinians have become more active in striking Israel from Lebanon.

But Yasir 'Arafat refused to recognize this picture. He does not want to admit that he has strengthened his armed forces in Lebanon. The Palestinian soldiers who have returned to Lebanon have done so to visit their families, he claimed, and the PLO's military strength is unchanged.

'Arafat sketches a familiar background of conspiracy in the never-ending bloodbaths in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, although with U.S. guilt more clearly delineated than usual:

"There is a conspiracy which I generally call Camp Morbid," he said, "a mutation of Camp David. It is an agreement between Syrian President al-Asad and McFarlane (Reagan's former security adviser, now notorious for his role in the arms deal with Iran). It was reached in 1984. Its aim is to divide Lebanon into two spheres of influence — one in the south for Israel and one in the north for Syria. The ultimate goal is of course to prevent the PLO's armed men from returning to Lebanon and to prevent Palestinian military activities directed against Israel."

He described how security zones have been set up in the south under Israeli control and under Amal. He talked about the puppet Dawud Dawud, the head of the Amal militia in the south. He is absolutely convinced that this conspiracy determines policy and military action in southern Lebanon today.

"To simplify this division of Lebanon, people had planned to get rid of the Palestinians first," he said, "because we are opposed to this cantonization, this attempt to Balkanize the whole Arab world."

He brushed aside any suggestion of the Palestinians as a threat to Lebanon or any Lebanese. His description of what is happening in Lebanon — even if it is correct in many ways — is that of the propagandist. The PLO leader is acting in something that appears to be a Levantine, if not a Palestinian, tradition — always finding a conspiracy and holding someone else responsible for all that is wrong. There is seldom self-examination but rather an unwillingness to accept responsibility for mistakes or sins of omission.

I asked him who broke the so-called Amman agreement, which appeared to be a promising political alliance between the PLO and Jordanian King Husayn until February 1986. He said that U.S. pressure on Jordan forced the king to terminate the agreement. As far has he is concerned, it has not yet been declared dead, he pointed out. It has been frozen pending better times — something that greatly annoys the group that usually vies with 'Arafat's Fatah within the PLO, George Habash's PFLP.

I asked him if he does not get tired when the world turns its back on the Palestinians and when their Arab brothers leave them in the lurch. He said that the Palestinians do not cease to exist

simply because people turn their backs on them or leave them in the lurch.

But does not 'Arafat himself sometimes become weighed down after a whole life as a politician always in the position of underdog?

"I was also an engineer for a while," he said, giggling, and pointing to Abu Jihad, "and he was a teacher."

He knows I know that was a very long time ago in Kuwait and only very briefly and more or less for the sake of appearances.

Then he said that every Palestinian is a political animal as long as the Palestinian people are not allowed to decide what goes on in any part of their country.

"We belong there, we come from there, and we will return there."

My next question — how they will return there — contains the question of why the PLO's "constitution" still says that Israel must be destroyed. He answered by asking why the ancient Israeli writings say that the Jewish kingdom will stretch from the Euphrates to the Nile.

"Texts can be changed."

He speaks in generalizations, sometimes in the language of pamphlets. This too is a Levantine tradition, I believe, and he has done so countless times before. For him and for the PLO the situation remains disappointingly the same; how can he be expected to vary his version of what, from his viewpoint, is a very simple injustice?

I asked him about U.S. policy in the Middle East. Does he, like a high-ranking man with whom I spoke in Cairo, think that the Americans are insensitive in their political maneuverings in the Middle East?

"Yes, indeed," he said. "They are like computers, and computers cannot understand human feelings."

That is where the interview ended, with a reminder that in all the manipulating by power blocs, in all the cold-blooded political intrigues, in all the violence, in all the implacable and frozen enmity, the conflicts here too are about human feelings more than anything else.

For this tired man too.

'Arafat Continues Algiers Visit, Talks

LD132236 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is continuing his visit to Algiers and holding more talks with senior Algerian officials.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar was received yesterday by the Algerian president, Brother Struggler Chadli Bendjedid. According to a responsible Palestinian source, the Palestinian-Algerian talks — which were attended on the Palestinian side by Brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; Abu al-Mu'tasim [Ahmad 'Afnah], deputy chief of staff of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; and Abu al-'Iz, PLO representative in Algiers — dealt with the latest Palestinian and Arab regional developments and ways to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught on our Palestinian people and our Arab nation.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also visited the camp of the Palestinian fighters living in sisterly Algeria. Brother Abu 'Ammar was accompanied by brothers Abu Jihad and Abu al-Mu'tasim, as well as a number of Palestinian military and political cadres. Brother Abu 'Ammar met with the fighters and briefed them on the latest military developments in Lebanon and the sufferings of our Palestinian people in the camps and in the south [of Lebanon] — the consequence of a 4-month siege of the camps, as well as the continuous criminal aggression by Birri's gangs, by those who support them from the 1st and 6th Brigades, and by the Syrian forces. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar stressed to the Palestinian fighters that the Syrian-Birri reactionary conspiratorial moves against our people will not be successful. The steadfastness of our fighters and of our people will foil all their plots.

Meets With Messadia

LD131953 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] On the 3d day of his visit to Algeria, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was received by Cherif Messadia, official of the [FLN] Central Committee Permanent Secretariat. The two sides reviewed recent developments in Palestinian affairs, the need to close Palestinian ranks, the present situation in the Arab world, and ways to end the situation facing the Palestinian people in camps. (Sadiq Zueten), an official of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples, and the PLO representative in Algiers took part in the meeting.

PLO Accuses Syria of 'Propaganda Campaign'

JN130918 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1811 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] A responsible PLO information source has revealed that the Syrian regime's organs distributed secret instructions to its embassies and diplomatic missions to escalate the tendentious propaganda campaign against the Palestinian people and the PLO. This campaign coincides with Syria's destructive attack against the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The source affirmed that the Syrian regime, as usual, tried to distort facts by including in these secret instructions numerous lies, which have become intolerable to our Arab, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian masses.

PLO Communique on Israeli Raid on Maghdushah
JN140750 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Military communique issued by PLO on 12 January]

[Text] The Zionist enemy warplanes at 1345 today bombed the town of Maghdushah and the surrounding hills, as well as the positions of the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces in those areas. This aggression by the Israeli warplanes illustrates the cooperation among the Zionist entity, the Amal gangs, and the Syrian special forces in their criminal war against the Palestinian people and camps, which is a desperate attempt to liquidate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and to destroy the camps and the PLO's infrastructure. This bombing supports the Amal gangs' continued aggression against the Palestinian camps, as repeatedly stated by the coordinator of the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon in discussing these joint military operations. As a result of this brutal aggression, a number of people were either martyred or wounded, most of them peaceful citizens, women, and children, and some houses in the area were destroyed. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Revolution until victory.

KUWAIT

KUNA: ICO Secretary General Pirzadu Arrives

LD132006 Kuwait KUNA in English 1845 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 13 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference Sharifuddin Pirzada arrived here tonight.

Upon arrival Pirzada told KUNA that he is here to see the arrangements relating to the convocation of the fifth Islamic summit conference, and appealed to all member states to positively respond to the call.

Pirzada noted that the summit will discuss a (?wide) variety of issues including the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East problems, Jerusalem Committee, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and South Africa.

Other items will deal with human rights [word indistinct] and the formation (?of the Islamic Court of Justice), he added.

Meets With Al-Sabah

LD141139 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0956 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (KUNA) — Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, met with the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, here today.

No details were given about what was discussed during this meeting; however, it is believed that it dealt with Kuwait's preparations for the Fifth ICO Summit in 12 days.

Mr Pirzada arrived here last night from Islamic Conference Organization Headquarters in Jeddah. He also is expected to meet with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

Oil Minister To Visit USSR, Norway, Egypt

LD131133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1035 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA) — In reply to a question by the SPA representative about the tour that the minister of petroleum and mineral resources will make to some non-OPEC petroleum exporting countries, His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said:

Proceeding from the decisions made by OPEC during its latest meetings and from the desire to explain OPEC objectives, which aim to stabilize oil prices in the international markets in the interest of all, I will tomorrow, God willing, and at the request of the OPEC chairman, begin a tour. This tour will include the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Soviet Union, and Norway. The aim of the tour is to explain what I referred to above; specifically, that we recently became aware of the readiness of the non-OPEC petroleum producing countries to cooperate in stabilizing prices, a matter that encourages the organization to take such a measure. We hope that OPEC will realize its objective.

Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message; Departs

LD131852 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Mr Bashir al-Maghribi, envoy of the Libyan leader, left this evening following a visit to the Kingdom during which he conveyed a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from his brother his excellency the Libyan president, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The envoy was seen off at the airport by the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysir, and charge d'affairs of the Libyan embassy.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD121121 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk concluded his 2-day visit to the Kingdom today, during which he conveyed a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to the custodian of the two holy mosques, and had talks with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal covering bilateral relations between the two countries and matters of common interest.

He was seen off at the King Khalid International Airport by chief of protocol at the Saudi Foreign Ministry, Ambassador 'Isa Nuwaysir.

UAE

Turkish Cypriot Atakol Arrives on Official Visit

TA121643 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1627 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait [no date as received] (A.A.) — Kenan Atakol, foreign minister of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) arrived in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sunday for an official visit.

The undersecretary of United Arab Emirates Yakub al-Kindi met Atakol at Abu Dhabi airport.

Around noon, Atakol met with UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi.

Before Atakol's arrival UAE newspaper *"Emirate News"* said, "despite non-existence of diplomatic relations, UAE has extensive economic and cultural relations with TRNC."

The newspaper added that UAE imported livestock, fresh fruits, leather, articrafts from TRNC and that a joint investment

company had been founded last year for UAE to place investments in these sectors.

Zayid Receives Pakistani President's Message
JN121352 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT
12 Jan 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Jan (WAKH] — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn S ..n Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, has received a message from Pakistani President Muhammad Ziaul Haq. The message was conveyed by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Ali Khan during his meeting with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, here today. During the meeting, which was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all areas as well as the current Arab and Islamic issues.

Lebanese Envoy Delivers Al-Jumayyil Message
NC131832 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The minister of defense, His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, received Lebanese Presidential envoy Hani Salam this evening. Salam delivered a message from President Amin al-Jumayyil on recent events in Lebanon. The envoy briefed his highness on political and military developments in Lebanon, and on the efforts being made to reach an accord among the various parties to the conflict there. In addition, Salam touched on the result of work by local and Arab bodies to end the fighting among these parties.

His highness the defense minister expressed confidence in the fraternal Lebanese people's ability to overcome their ordeal and to settle their differences, which only benefit the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs. He also voiced hope that peace and prosperity will prevail in that country. Lebanon's ambassador to the UAE, Nizar Shams, was present as well. The Lebanese envoy left for Muscat this evening following a brief visit to the UAE as part of a tour of several states in the region.

Mubarak, Spain's Gonzalez Hold Closed Session

NC131123 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT
13 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed session of talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the Al-Qubbah Republican Palace this afternoon. The Spanish prime minister arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 4-day official visit.

Gonzalez Comments on Talks

NC131709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT
13 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has underlined his country's support for President Husni Mubarak's initiative on the matter of an international conference to solve the Middle East problem. He said: We have declared this officially, and I constantly reaffirm my support for this initiative.

Answering questions from correspondents following his talks with President Mubarak today, the Spanish prime minister said that he and President Mubarak had reviewed all the issues that concern Spain and Egypt. He stressed that the results of these talks were excellent.

Asked whether he had discussed Egypt's debt to Spain with President Mubarak, Gonzalez said: We talked about this matter with the Egyptian delegation yesterday. We conducted a comprehensive examination of all the main issues that concern the two countries.

Answering a question on whether Spain believes that Europe should play a more active role in the Middle East, Felipe Gonzalez said: I cannot speak on behalf of the entire European community. But there is a new European awareness of the problems of the Middle East and Mediterranean.

Regarding Spain's view of the Iraq-Iran war, Gonzalez stated: We have repeatedly voiced our opinion on the need to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war. Negotiations are the best way of doing this. He added: There is no justification for continuing this war that is causing destruction in the region. We believe Iraq is making an effort to solve this problem peacefully. We also believe that Iran will make a similar effort.

Abu Ghazalah Receives Visiting U.S. Admiral

NC131356 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT
13 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, met with Admiral Carl Trost, chief of U.S. Navy operations [as received], today. The U.S. official arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday for a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt as a guest of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Admiral Trost is expected to pay a friendly visit to the Egyptian Navy in Alexandria.

Saudi Oil Minister Expected in Cairo 'This Week'

NC092251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1946 GMT
9 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA) — Saudi Minister of Petroleum Hisham Nazir will arrive in Cairo this week for a visit to Egypt scheduled to last several days.

In its Saturday, 10 January, edition, the weekly *Akhbar al-Yawm* newspaper says that President Husni Mubarak will meet the Saudi minister to discuss the distinguished relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and ways to strengthen them. They will also discuss various Arab issues in light of the Egyptian role to establish peace in the region.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Departs 13 Jan

NC131506 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT
13 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of a 5-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, the Ethiopian foreign minister said that during his meeting with President Mubarak, he sensed the latter's desire to improve relations between the two countries. He added that Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has accepted President Mubarak's invitation to visit Cairo. The date of the visit, he said, will be set later. It is expected to take place after the general plebiscite on the Constitution and the preparations for the declaration of a republic in Ethiopia.

Foreign Minister Berhanu praised the results of his visit to Cairo. He stressed that the talks were fruitful and beneficial and had opened new channels in bilateral relations.

Berhanu was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Muhsin al-Diwani, head of the Foreign Ministry Protocols Department.

It is recalled that the Ethiopian minister gave President Mubarak a verbal message from President Mengistu Haile Mariam. He also had talks with Prime Minsiter 'Atif Sidqi and senior Egyptian officials.

Recent Fighting Detailed in Reports, Communiques

Planes Hit Bakhtaran Targets

JN131520 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1440 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 13 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And he sent against them flights of birds, striking them with stones of baked clay. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people, we have been patient and resorted to wisdom to make the evildoers, the Zionist allies in Tehran and Qom, understand that striking at cities cannot achieve their objectives of weakening the brave Iraqis' morale and that we are more able and better prepared to use the same method against them. However, whenever they see us behaving wisely and patiently they believe this is a sign of fear and hesitation.

They, therefore, were deceived by this illusion and repeated their shelling of steadfast Basra. Their evil action was accompanied by their aborted aggressive attempt to cross our international border at the (Al-Shalamjah) camp near Basra. Basra has remained a lofty and difficult target for the invaders. Yes, they brutally and heavily shelled the women, children, and old men in Basra on 10 January. They continued their crime when they discovered their failure in this offensive. It has become clear they will not benefit from our repeated warnings. Thus, we have to teach them lessons they can understand.

We relied on God. The lava fell on heads which only respond to this method. The hawks appeared at the battlefield. On this basis, 30 planes, fully loaded, dropped the fire of their rage on selected targets in the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] this afternoon. All our planes with their brave hawks returned safely and successfully in God's care.

The criminal Iranian rulers alone are responsible for the consequences of their cruel and evil deeds before God, the Iranian people, and the world. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] 13 January 1987

Communique No 2,525

JN131900 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Communique No 2,525 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of God,the merciful, the compassionate. We have always warned the criminal Iranian rulers of the dangers of their aggression against Iraq as well as of the dangers of insisting on war. We also gave them free advice on how to spare their people's blood, to preserve their honor, if they have any, to halt their ambitions toward our country, and to free themselves from the slavery of Zionism and its will.

However, accumulated dark grudges remained their guide and cheap ambitions motivated them to continue the same march. Their agentry to Zionism controlled their behavior, not caring for the true interests of their people. Thus, after they were disappointed by not occupying Iraq, they believed they could occupy a part of Iraq. They did not realize that Basra, which they chose to force their ambitions on, is guarded by the walls of men's determination and belief. In front of Basra there are rivers of fire which will burn every criminal, aggressor, and evildoer. After 5 days of fighting they lost thousands of their scoundrels, reaping only failure and disappointment. This is the end of tyrants.

The following is a roundup of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. All the scoundrels which the enemy pushed into the crematory last night and early this morning were destroyed. The enemy then sent out new groups of scoundrels in another abortive attempt to regain its lost footholds and for which thousands were lost south of Al-Asmak Lake. The brave Iraqis from the III Army Corps and the forces affiliated with it confronted them and destroyed all these groups. None of them was saved.

Meanwhile, our victorious forces continued their successful advance to mop up new areas according to the prepared plan of keeping the initiative in their hands. Our forces are pursuing the enemy, inflicting further losses which the enemy did not experience before. The artillery and armored units' brave soldiers are also directing their firepower at the enemy. The collapse and retreat of the enemy has become certain with God's will. God supports believers.

2. The capability, efficiency, and strong blows of our heroic Air Force express the strength of this great homeland and its capabilities. It also shows the Iraqi people's bravery, determination, performance, and ability to work under all circumstances. Undoubtedly the role played by our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and men — will be immortalized in history as the pride of Iraq's next generations as it is the pride of this generation. Blessed be these men who whose force and performance implemented the directives of our great leader. God grant them success to continue their good deeds.

The following is a roundup of activities carried out by our Air Force today in 374 combat missions.

a. At 0430 today our planes hit the city of Qom and dealt it a destructive blow.

b. At the same time our planes raided the city of Esfahan and dealt it a destructive blow.

c. At the same time also our planes carried out a devastating attack on the city of Dezful.

d. At 1100 today our daring aircraft launched a violent and destructive raid on the city of Khorramabad.

e. At 1030 today our planes struck a surface-to-air missile battery north of the city of Mohammerah. [Korramshahr].

f. At 1140 today our planes carried out a devastating attack on a surface-to-air missile battery in the city of Mohammerah.

g. At 1256 today our planes hit another surface-to-air missile battery north of the city of Mohammerah.

h. At 1210 today our planes struck a surface-to-air missile battery in Bandar-e Khomeyni.

i. At 1328 today our planes carried out a devastating attack on a surface-to-air missile battery in Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

j. At 1520 today our planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

After carrying out all these missions, our planes returned safely to the homeland and our hawks returned proud and thanking God for the great victory and the achievements.

3. Our helicopter gunships' lofty knights continued to give efficient support to our ground units as they advanced to purge the enemy footholds. Throughout the day our knights prusued enemy armor vehicles, and concentrations, tearing them up. Today, they scored great achievements, destroying the enemy. After carrying out 244 combat sorties, they returned safely to their base in God's care. Blessed be those brave honest men.

4. At 1100 today, one of the planes of the enemy ravens attempted to cary out evil against civilian targets in the Kallar area. The Iraqi antiaircraft guns' men, who were lying in wait for the enemy, dealt a successful blow to the plane, which fell in flames. Our units in the same area captured the pilot, who bears the rank of captain. Praise be to God.

5. Our antiaircraft guns in the heroic III Army Corps sector downed an enemy helicopter over the batlefield.

6. At 2440 last night, the enemy fired one of its missiles supplied to it by world Zionism and its entity, at a residential area in Baghdad. As a result of the incident, several civilian citizens were martyred, several others were wounded, and several houses were damaged.

The criminal Iranian enemy also shelled residential areas in Basra with long-range artillery. As a result of the enemy shelling, 4 citizens, including 1 child, were martyred, and 33 civilians, including 3 children and 6 women, were wounded. Two enemy planes hit residential areas in the city of Irbil and the Qaba' Rawanduz area. As a result of the incident, 1 child was martyred and 50 civilians were wounded. Another enemy plane also struck residential areas in Qada' Kallar. As a result, 1 civilian was martyred and 19 civilians, including 4 children and 3 women, were wounded.

Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and quick recovery to our injured, God willing. After a short time, the Khomyeniites will realize that we will not remain silent toward their crimes and that their payment will be very hard.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 January 1987

Air Force Attacks Esfahan

JN132135 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2118 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 13 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of their glorious actions to inflict punishment on the Zionist criminal Khomeyniites and teach them the lessons they deserve, our gigantic Air Force raided the city of Esfahan again using many of our daring planes, which dealt violent and destructive blows to their targets in the city at 2250 today. The loyal hawks then returned safe and proud with their planes to the homeland. Praise be to God, the best supporter.

Qom, Dezful, Tabriz Raided

JN140605 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 13 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of deterring the enemy from shelling purely residential areas in our cities, and in punishment of the criminal Khomeyniites clique's evil actions against our citizens, numbers of our planes carried out the following missions:

1. At 2110, our planes carried out a second destructive raid on the city of Qom.

2. At the same time, other planes carried out a second destructive raid on Dezful.

3. At the same time also, other planes raided Tabriz and dealt it a violent and destructive blow.

After carrying out these heroic missions, all our planes returned safely and triumphantly to the homeland. Praise be to God. Our fatal blows to the scoundrel Khomeyniites will continue as long as they insist on evil. No one can save them from God's punishment and Iraq's painful blows.

[Dated] 13 January 1987

Communique No 2,526

JN140935 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0738 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Iraqi Military Communique No 2,526 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great, God is great, God is great. Peace be upon you O men of the heroic II Army Corps under the command of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Sattar al-Ma'ini. Peace be upon you O men of the Great Badr Forces under the command of Staff Brigadier General Tariq Radi Hasan. Peace be upon you O men of the Dhulfaqar under the command of Staff Brig Gen 'Abd Mutlaq

Humud al-Juburi. Peace be upon you O glorious Iraqis.

Before the "Great Day Battle" we were monitoring the enemy's movements and preparations. We received successive reports on the enemy's plan, on the conflict between the Army and the Khomeyni Guards, and on their intentions against each other despite the fact that they both seek to undermine good and proud Iraq. As we expected, we received confirmation that, simultaneous with an attack on Basra, the enemy will also attack another corps in another sector. It was absolutely confirmed that the intended sector is the central sector, that the II Army Corps was targeted, and that the objective of this attack was a failed attempt by the enemy to terrorize the Diyala Governorate, in addition to other direct military objectives. The evildoers were miserably defeated. The enemy is nowhere near Diyala [in the central sector] which is protected by the brave lions of the land and by the various corps of our valiant Armed Forces. They in turn are supported by a great people who experienced the enemy and opted for the life of freedom of glory.

The Khomeyni Guards, supported by elements of the enemy Army, was the primary enemy force in the southern sector during the "Great Day Battle" and in the recent battles waged by the heroic III Army Corps. However, in the II Army Corps sector the regular Army, assisted by some units of the charlatan Khomeyni Guards, was the main force. We anticipated these two possibilities. Almighty God bestowed success upon us in the "Great Day Battle" and in the recent battles in the III Army Corps sector. After our enemy becomes completely impotent there, we will reap the final fruits and enjoy final victory. This will occur when the enemy completely collapses, rubs its nose in the mud, and is overrun by the feet of the lofty heroes of the III Army Corps and forces combined with it.

The enemy was completely and finally defeated in the "Great Day Battle". Its intentions and objectives have already been defeated by the III Army Corps. After this, it had no choice but to attempt to concentrate its forces in the II Army Corps sector under the pressure of the suspect and backward leadership and the charlatan Khomeyni Guards. They threw the army into the crematorium after they themselves had experienced it. As demented people would do, the enemy carried out an adventure with its forces in the heroic II Army Corps sector last night, 13-14 January. Our glorious men were lying in wait for it. A unique infantry battle ensued supported by other formations in which the heroes of the II Army Corps of the Dhulfaqar and the Great Badr Forces expressed their strong belief in God, the great principles, and Iraq's new course, its principles, and the meaning of freedom and sovereignty which we aspire for our homeland and people. They also proved their great awareness of their national and pan-Arab role. All this proves their capable and brave confrontation of the aggression, and the significance of this confrontation on the level of Jihad [holy war] and pan-Arab struggle to protect the Arab nation's security, honor, and future.

The II Army Corps' heroes have expressed themselves and theirprinciples through an honorable and brave stand backed by an array of unique skills. Just as in other battles, the enemy faced men who are full of confidence and faith, and who used their arms with great skill. They did not give the enemy the opportunity to penetrate our international border or our strong positions. In fact, the great majority of the enemy attacking forces could not remove the frontline barriers of our defensive positions. Our forces have completely destroyed the enemy forces, except in one position of one of our companies in the Great Badr Forces' sector, where the enemy was able to penetrate the positions of this company, and pushed numbers of infiltrators to the border outpost of Abu 'Ubaydah. The counterattacking force there is managing to purge the area from the enemy.

Thus, O lofty Iraqis, the enemy offensive in the II Army Corps sector has been defeated and the invaders have also been repulsed. They lick their wounds as they leave behind their cursed dead bodies and prisoners. Iraq's flag continued to flutter and to be loved by all the men's consciences, zeal, and honor. God is great and ignominy to the defeated.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 January 1987

Commander Describes Offensive

JN140943 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0825 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Telephone interview with Staff Brigadier General 'Abd Mutlaq al-Juburi, commander of the Dhulfaqar Forces, in II Army Corps sector by unidentified radio war correspondent — date not given; recorded]

[Text] First of all I would like to congratulate the president leader, God preseve him, on this great victory. I congratulate the Iraqi people on this great victory. I also congratulate the Iraqi Army on this victory. The enemy attacked the Dhulfaqar Forces sector at 1930 with six brigades. A unique defensive battle ensued in which the Iraqi officers and soldiers demonstrated great courage embodying the brilliant Arab history and principles. One of the greatest battles took place from 1930 on the evening of 13-14 January and continued until 0600 on 14 January. The enemy could only reach two of the barriers of our heroic formations. Large number of enemy formations were destroyed and a very large number of enemy forces were captured. One of the enemy regiments lost nearly 1,000 dead. The comanders, officers, and NCO's of the Dhulfaqar Forces and the political and party organizations bring glad tidings to all the Iraqis and Arabs

Planes Raid Missile Battery

JN141034 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1019 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 14 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force has continued its actions against the enemy's defeated and collapsed remnants in the heroic III Army Corps sector. Early this morning, our planes pounced on enemy positions, concentrations, armor, artillery and vehicles, of which 120 vehicles were destroyed this morning alone, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors. The number of combat missions which were carried out at the time this statement was prepared reached 211 combat missions.

At 0943 today, our daring planes dealt a destructive blow to a Hawk suface-to-air missile battery with which the Zionist entity had supplied its agents in Iran, thus, challenging the enemy's antiaircraft defenses. Congratulations to the sky hawks on these splendid achievements. March ahead to destroy the enemy remnants and to prevent any harm from reaching the homeland of happiness, security, and peace.

II Army Corps Commander Cited

JN141053 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0845 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When thou threwest a handful of dust, it was not thy act, but God's. [Koranic verse] To the Arab nation's pride and the leader of our country on the path of freedom and progress, Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, God protect and preserve him, from Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, commander of the II Army Corps. Mr President, these are glorious days which garnish the Arab age with splendor, add to the nation's glory a new beginning which will persist in the eyes and consciences, and affirm that the cradle of civilization will always be stronger than the forces of evil and barbarism. The march of history will always go forward. How miserable and disappointed will be those who cast doubt on the will of God, who try to halt progress, and how miserable will be those who could only find Iraq as the target of rancor and ambition. These scoundrels did not realize that this country has God to protect it and that in this country there is a leader who is the sharp Arab sword, the shining star that guides people, the wise man who guides men on the right path, the source of wisdom in the land of divine religions, the inspiring fighter, the doer of good and very righteous man, our leader the great Saddam Husayn.

Mr President, the enemy sustained grave losses at the hands of the comrades in belief and arms in the heroic III Army Corps. They thought that by opening a new front before our heroic II Army Corps, their burden would be alleviated, our effort weakened, and their forces could escape from the wrath of God. The enemy planned this a long time ago. They consulted their Zionist allies and those who are Arabs in name only. Thanks to your sound instructions, we monitored the enemy movements and destroyed it. Thus, God disappointed them. The racist, sectarian enemy did not realize that our wise leadership headed by your esteemed person, had fully prepared for everything and accounted for all possibilities. The enemy did not realize that we are closer to it than death itself.

When the enemy began its abortive offensive at 2200 last night along the entire front of the heroic Dhulfaqar Forces commanded by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd Mutlaq Humud al-Juburi and against the valiant Great Badr Forces led by Staff Brig Gen Tariq Radi Hasan, streams of fire poured over the Khomeyniites which were fired by every noble soldier of the brave infantry, armored units, and artillery heroes. A great battle ensued. It was waged by your sons shouting God is great, God is great, their hearts filled with love for Iraq and you, O beloved leader. They continued until they crushed the enemy and walked tall. When the dust of the battle settled, there was nothing left of the Khomeyniite scoundrels except their torn corpses that filled the plains and valleys. Thus, Iraq's face will continue to shine and the means for victory remain in our hands. Glory to God, for he is the best of helpers.

Mr President, order us and you will find us to be your unrelenting swords. We do not tire of waging battles and will always be faithful and true believers defending freedom and right. This is a sufficient source of pride for us. We will always be faithful soldiers under your command. From me and every fighter from the Al-Yarmuk Forces we express to you Mr President our deepest affection and loyalty. May God, preserve you as our leader and father.

[Signed] Staff Lt Gen 'Abd al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, commander of the Al-Yarmuk Forces

Missile Hits Baghdad

JN141100 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1039 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 14 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1230 today, the enemy fired one of its missiles which the scoundrels who are Arabs in name only, supplied it with. The missile fell in a residential area of Baghdad. A number of civilians were martyred, others were wounded, and some shops and houses were damaged.

We tell the scoundrel Khomeyniites to empty their quiver of the crumbs of their scoundrels and of those who are Arabs in name only. Nothing can protect them from Iraqi blows and punishment. In order to make them know that they are dwarfs before this great homeland, our reply will be quick and destructive. They did not harm us, but they harmed their own souls. [Koranic verse]

Husayn Rejects Proposal To Meet Shamir, Mubarak

TA140947 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 87 p 5

[Report from Paris by Edwin Eytan and from Rome by Yosi Bar]

[Excerpt] Jordan's King Husayn rejected a proposal to hold a tripartite meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. This was learned in Paris.

The monarch and his ministers met yesterday with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and several of his cabinet ministers.

When asked about Israeli-Jordanian ties, the Jordanian ministers said that these relations were "normal" and have not deteriorated since Yitzhaq Shamir came to power. In their opinion, however, a face-to-face meeting between Husayn and Shamir prior to the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Speaks on U.S. Policy, Other Issues

JN132032 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1753 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Interview with King Husayn by Monte Carlo correspondent Fu'ad Na'im in Paris; date not given — recorded]

[Text][Na'im] Today you are visiting France. You will visit Italy, and in the past you visited Britain. Do you expect Europe to play a role in the Middle East problem? What kind of role? Will it be more than a declaration of general principles like the ones issued at the Venice summit or the Brussels summit?

[Husayn] I believe the European stand at Venice and other European positions are appreciated, as far as I am concerned and as far as many others in the Arab world are concerned. We hope this stand will develop and that Europe will play an effective role, given there is acceptance of the idea of an international conference in which the five permanent Security Council members will take part and which will be called for by the UN secretary general with the participation of all parties to the Middle East dispute.

Europe can play a role in bringing views closer between the United States and the USSR, which accepts this idea and whose stand is similar to ours and to that of our friends here in France, for instance, at this stage. I hope this stand will be very persuasive so the United States will change its attitude, which has hampered our march and has not enabled us to reach the point of an international conference, the only formula by which we all can build a just and honorable peace in the Middle East.

Moreover, Europe, and France -- as a permanent Security Council member — also Britain and the Soviet Union ... [Husayn changes thought] We are trying to establish a dialogue among the five permanent Security Council members to reach an understanding on convening the conference to enable us to take a step forward to reach our aims of saving the land and the people and to realize justice and peace in the Middle East.

[Na'im] When you speak of dialogue, is this within the preparatory committee which the Soviet Union proposed and which France supported?

[Husayn] I believe the French, Soviet, Jordanian, and Arab proposals are greatly similar. I believe a speedy dialogue among the five members will be the best way to realize progress toward a just and honorable peace in the Middle East and to prepare the atmosphere to begin dialogue and realize something on the ground. As for proposals on preliminary conferences, I believe there are approximately seven formulas. If we are logical and discuss these formulas, this will take us to the end of the century. I believe this is the feasible way. [as heard]

A dialogue, whether bilateral or multilateral among the five states, will prepare the atmsophere to hold the conference quickly and enable us to begin dealing with the problem, which is the biggest of all problems in our world and which is [words indistinct] and which definitely has a great bearing on the cause of peace in the entire world.

[Na'im] Has the Murphy visit to Jordan and the region brought anything new that might reactivate the peace process in the Middle East?

[Husayn] Before Mr Murphy arrived in the region, I received a letter from President Reagan in reply to two letters I recently sent to him, particularly following the many revelations about the arms deal with Iran. I was very clear in both. I spoke about the extent of deterioration of U.S. credibility in the world, particularly in the Arab world. I demanded that swift action be taken if they really want to be positive and if they want to do anything to save what they can of their credibility. Emphasis must be put on the effects of the U.S. policy revealed concerning Iran and Iraq as well as the entire region, not only to remedy the harm which has been done to U.S. credibility but to deal with what we can describe as the threat to Arab existence in the entire region and the Arab world.

On the other hand, we said efforts must be exerted and a policy must be developed — although we could not define outlines in the past — with regard to the Arab-Israeli issue and the Palestinian question. The message said the President was interested in all that I mentioned, particularly regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question in particular, and that Murphy would be dispatched within this framework.

Murphy brought nothing new. I felt his task was confined to meeting with various parties to hear their views and convey them to Washington. We were very frank with him and we concentrated, naturally, on the international conference and the need to work to convene it as soon as posible. We again reiterated that U.S. credibility is almost zero in the region and this is indeed so as far as I am concerned. This is unless a new, reassuring, and convincing policy is developed.

At any rate, we cannot envisage a U.S. role similar to the one which the Americans were thinking of at the time of President Reagan's initiative a while ago. The picture is completely changed. There is a role which the United States can play — a positive role if it wishes — through an international conference

including, in addition to the United States, the USSR and the other permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the parties to the conflict to begin serious and purposeful action which may lead to achieving a just and honorable peace in the region.

[Na'im] You have exerted multidimensional political efforts in the past to reach a formula for a peaceful settlement in the region. These efforts successively reached an impasse. Do you feel bitter when looking back? What do you think are the major political or [word indistinct] factors preventing an acceptable solution?

[Husayn] Actually, the responsibility of every Arab official impels him to do all he can to save the occupied territory and its population, especially the Arab land occupied by Israel since June 1967, as soon as possible. This responsibility also impels him to work to tackle all the dimensions of the Palestine question through a just and durable solution which can be accepted by coming generations.

I believe the factors that hampered achieving this objective are many. Among these factors are the current state of affairs in the Arab world and the disagreement of views and stands depending on the nearness of Arab countries to the actual arena of dispute. In addition to this, there are factors out of our control, such as the different policies of the United States and other countries and powers in the world. The region is delicate, strategic, and important for this world. It contains oil. It is the bridge linking Asia to Africa. It overlooks the Mediterranean and is close to Europe. Consequently, our region is a subject of disputes aimed at dominating it in one way or another.

Furthermore, we cannot forget the clear Zionist influence on the United States and its decisionmakers. In addition to this, there is a continuous change of faces in the political leadership, as well as in the Congress and Senate of the United States. Every 2 years we see new faces and we begin dialogue with them to acquaint them with the facts which are in most cases unknown by many in the United States.

One more problem facing us is that we in the Arab world believe that the world understands our causes and thinks our cause is just and strong and therefore it is taken for granted that the world is in the know about what happened and what is going on. Unfortunately, this is untrue. As a result of this belief, we refrain from doing what we can by defending and presenting the facts of our cause to others.

These factors affected the situation in the past. However, the situation is very dangerous. We believe that our brothers and kinfolk in the occupied territory have suffered enough. We are now approaching the 20th anniversary of the occupation of this territory. The danger does not threaten the kinfolk in the occupied territory only, but, if matters remain the same, will threaten the entire region and may cause other explosions which would not be in the interest of the region or the world.

[Na'im] Sir, regarding the occupied territory, what are the political and economic dangers facing the Jordanian development plan in the occupied territory and how can a so-called Jordanian-Israeli condominium be avoided?

[Husayn] In fact, we are doing our duty. This is not a new situation. It has been continuing since 1967 and up to the present time; that is, after the Israeli occupation. Arab summit conferences, particularly the Baghdad summit, adopted resolutions to support steadfastness in the occupied territory. In fact, our work has not changed. We feel we are doing less than our duty toward our kinfolk in the occupied territory to help them remain steadfast on their territory. A people without a land will have a cause, but it will be a cause of a people who are far from their land and who cannot achieve their rights. Our efforts aim to deal with the people's needs if we can so this people will be stronger and more capable of remaining steadfast. These attempts and this work are not a solution by themselves. These attempts are linked to efforts that must be exerted to achieve a fair and permanent peace in the region.

Once again I say we are not an alternative to the PLO, the institution which we consider the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We hope the PLO will truly represent this people, reflecting their pains and aspirations.

In fact, at a certain point there was coordination between Jordan and the PLO on the political level as well as on other levels, such as work to support our kinfolk in the occupied territory. The political coordination halted. We, as well as the PLO, are still adhering to the ground on which the joint action was based, that is, the well-known 11 Feb agreement.

In fact, our work has not stopped at any stage in supporting our kinfolk in the occupied territory. Our duty to defend our national security as well as our pan-Arab security urges us to support our kinfolk in the occupied territory. We cannot relinquish this duty. We have to continue the work, which is portrayed as if it were something new. This work could be more organized. I cannot say some Arab parties have relinquished the role they used to play, but the size of their support for our kinfolk in the occupied territory has lessened.

[Na'im] Many news reports have mentioned the mediation by Egypt to resume dialogue between Your Majesty and Yasir 'Arafat. Is the story true?

[Husayn] I explained all the dimensions of the differences in a speech I addressed to the people. There was political coordination and joint action. Then we reached a situation in which the PLO, and the PLO leadership in particular, chose not to walk with us on what we believed it had agreed to with us in service of the cause, to give it forward momentum.

Dialogue and discussion must start at the point where we stopped. The question is whether or not the PLO is prepared for this. It is really illogical to say that the PLO might be concerned about joining our efforts to support the kinfolk in the occupied territory while the political side is left untackled. Cooperation should be based on confidence, commitment, and readiness to fulfill commitments, not in the interest of individuals or groups of people, but in the interest of the Palestine question and the Arab cause.

If the PLO is prepared to reconsider its position to serve the aim, which we believe should be the aim of every genuine Palestinian and Arab, then there will be a ripe opportunity to resume

dialogue. Otherwise, nothing can be done. There is no doubt our brothers in Egypt are trying to do something. After explaining the situation, we told them the matter is left to the PLO and they can contact the PLO, as they always do. On our part, we explained our clear stand to the PLO and the PLO knows our stand in all its dimensions and realities.

[Na'im] Sir, you recently received a message from Yasir 'Arafat. Does it contain any new PLO position?

[Husayn] No, sir. It was a message of thanks for Jordan's efforts toward the situation in Lebanon and the camps war, as well as for Jordan's continued endeavors in this regard. In fact, such efforts do not deserve thanks because it is our duty to exert such efforts.

[Na'im] In your speech in Paris yesterday you concentrated on the Lebanese situation and the need to settle this situation. Are there any contacts between you and Lebanese officials in this regard?

[Husayn] The contacts are not as they have been in the past. However, contacts have been renewed between us and some brothers in Lebanon. We believe in the need to begin an intra-Lebanese dialogue to find a formula acceptable to all parties and a concept of what the situation should be in the future. If this can be developed we will support it with all our energies. So we encourage such dialogue. At the same time, contacts may increase in the future. But we always hope that the Lebanese will agree among themselves and that Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty will be safeguarded.

[Na'im] My final question: You are in constant touch with Iraq and you know what is going on at the Iraq-Iran front. How do you assess the results of the recent Iranian aggression? Do you believe that through the forthcoming Islamic summit the Islamic nation can reach a unified position on this dispute?

[Husayn] Regarding the Islamic summit, I believe it should deal with this serious situation. It should reach an agreement on issues to be raised. In fact, I presented an opinion during the Al-Ta'if summit [in Saudi Arabia]. At that time, we needed to say that the Islamic nation wanted an immediate termination of that war to start talks on ways to eliminate the causes of the war on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs or in the domestic affairs of other sides in the Arab region there. This is now an Arab and Iranian demand. Although good offices and committees have tried to solve the problems, the situation remains tragic in the full meaning of the word.

There are daily losses in life and the region and its peoples are being threatened by this war. The continuation of this war is not in the interest of the Arab nation or the Islamic nation. I do not believe there is any use in it. On the contrary, it increases dangers and tragedies on human and material levels. Therefore, the conference should deal with this issue if it wants to serve the Arab and Islamic world. We will try to do this. If the conference fails, we will face a serious situation. In other words, this failure will prove that we are unable to carry out our duty in any area in the Islamic world. I hope there will be Arab and Islamic meetings on the sidelines of the conference to achieve more understanding and coordination. This is what I expect the Islamic conference to do — the conference which will be convened in Kuwait in the near future and in which I will participate.

Regarding the war, I have recently been in Iraq and I follow all developments in this war. In fact, Iraq from the beginning waged the Arab nation's battle to preserve the Arab personality and entity. This is everybody's battle and Iraq is waging it with all its powers and energies and in full understanding of its role. It is doing what it can and I sensed the Iraqis' determination, awareness, and ability to confront the repeated aggressions against Iraq and the entire Arab nation.

[Na'im] Thank you, Your Majesty.

AL-RA'Y on King Husayn's LE MONDE Interview

JN131354 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 87
pp 1,18

[Editorial: "A Clear Message"]

[Text] In an interview published by the French paper *Le Monde* yesterday His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the failure to reach a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis will lead to uncontrollable danger. He indicated that the only way to reach a settlement is through an interantional conference. He referred to the need for the five UN [Security Council] permanent members to start a dialogue to pave the way for the convocation of this conference. Observers following the recent political developments realize that the Jordanian position on the one hand and the Soviet and European positions on the other are almost identical. Moscow called for holding a preparatory meeting among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to pave the way for the convocation of the international conference. France's position coincides with the positions of some European capitals. Jordan had earlier stressed the importance of this preparatory step. This position stems from the firm conviction that any unilateral effort, particularly by the United States, will only lead to further obstruction of the peace process. The U.S. and Israeli intransigence toward Palestinian rights or toward dealing with the PLO has continuously closed the door to any serious effort to attain just peace. The formation of the preparatory committee to pave the way for the international conference may constitute an opportunity to prevent the United States and Israel from stripping Resolution 242 of its contents, particulary regarding comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and preventing the aggressor from using superior force to achieve its goals.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to France and Italy falls within this framework. The Arabs desire to maintain the Jordanian role and reject any effort to eliminate it. His majesty's statement referred to the dangers stemming from the continuation of Israel's settlement policy, the dangers this policy poses to the peace process, and the contradictiory U.S. policy which was confirmed by the disclosure of the arms deal to Iran. His majesty noted that this accordingly resulted in Washington losing its credibility. This loss of credibility and contradiction can only be made up for by adopting an honest and sincere position toward

the Middle East question in particular, before the situation deteriorates to the point that it gets out of reach. At this moment, the enemies of peace and justice will pay a dear price for their positions and policies which are opposed to security and stability in our region and in many parts of the world.

AL-DUSTUR Views Shamir Peace Process Statements

JN101052 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jan 87 pp 1, 23

["News Analysis": "The Settlement and the Closed Doors"]

[Text] Israel can maintain it is the only pillar of U.S. policy in the area and that it it is the articulator of this policy which is identical to that of the Zionist entity. Enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir went out of his way to declare, as Murphy was beginning his tour of the region, that Israel will not cede an inch of "the land of Israel" and that any talks or negotiations will not take up the subject of returning territory but must proceed from the fact that all of the occupied Arab lands are Israel's. Yesterday, to coincide with Murphy's presence in Israel, Shamir said he was calling for direct talks between Israel and the Arabs and urged the United States to bring pressure to bear so Arab parties would consent to direct negotiations and separate solutions with Israel. Murphy's talks in Israel dealt with specifics of the occupation as a fait accompli.

As for an international conference [on the Middle East], Shamir dismisses it out of hand and excludes Syria altogether, given that the Golan Heights were annexed by Israel years ago. Furthermore, he says he will not sit with the PLO at the conference table and adds, to quote him, that "The Soviet Union has no constructive role to play in the area, given its policy toward Israel, its total support for its enemies, and its attitude toward Soviet Jewry." The upshot of this is that Shamir rejects Soviet attendance at an international conference. As is known, the 1974 Geneva conference was co-sponsored by the USSR and the United States. That international peace conference was a natural outcome of the momentum generated by the 1973 October war. Until then, and as of the joint U.S.-Soviet communique of 1 October 1977, coordination between the Soviet Union and the United States toward finding a solution to the Middle East problem had never been greater. But it emerged that the United States had been secretly working to isolate the Soviet Union from the Palestinian cause, a fact which manifested itself in Al-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem, the Camp David accord, and the conclusion of a separate peace [with Israel] by Egypt, the largest Arab country.

The United States and Israel have since then sought to reach agreement through separate solutions or to add further chains to Camp David. The Arabs have, on the other hand, insisted on a just and overall solution based on UN resolutions, to be attended by all parties, including the USSR. [sentence as published] Hence the Soviet [Foreign Ministry's] Middle East communique [of 7 January 1987] inspired by UN Resolution No "41/43 D" urging 122 nations to form a committee to prepare for an international peace conference. There is nothing new in the Soviet communique, as the Soviet position is known and constant. What is new is the communique's statement that "moves should be initiated to ease tension which has serious implications for all parties in the Middle East."

We have always made the point that the problem lies in the balance of power in the region and Arab disunity, which gives Israel a most effective weapon — peace of mind. Consequently, Israel can afford to be intransigent and unwilling to concede an inch of Arab territory. Israel hopes to impose surrender on the Arabs by dealing with them state by state, banking on the split in Arab ranks. It follows that any talk about peace is wishful thinking as long as this is the state of Arab affairs and the United States is totally aligned with Israel.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Arab Good Offices Committee

NC140857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Members of the Arab Good Offices Committee [dealing with the camps war] led by Chedli Klibi and Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim arrived at the B'abda Presidential Palace a short while ago. President al-Jumayyil met with the committee members in the presence of Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general; Muhammad Shuqayr, President al-Jumayyil's political adviser; Brigadier General Muhammad 'Adnan al-Khalil, military adviser to the president; Colonel Muhammad Zaydan; and Major Michel Rahbani, head of the National Security Department. The committee comprises eight members.

President Reportedly To Attend Islamic Summit

NC131825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The president of the Republic received Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, chairman of the press syndicate, at noon today. They discussed political affairs and the situation of the press.

Al-Ba'labakki said after the meeting that he had briefed the president on the hopes which the Lebanese public is pinning on the current Lebanese-Syrian talks. He said: His excellency the president assured me that he will spare no effort to ensure that these talks achieve their desired objective, so that the process of salvation may be resumed. [passage omitted]

The press syndicate chairman said that as part of his efforts to save Lebanon the president had expressed his intention to attend the Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait at the end of this month, along with the heads of the Islamic states, now that the Lebanese issue has been included on the summit agenda at the request of the Lebanese authorities.

Saudi Diplomat Abducted in West Beirut 13 Jan

NC132040 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Beirut, Jan 13 (AFP) — Armed men abducted a Saudi diplomat, Bakr Damanhuri, from his home in predominately Moslem West Beirut Monday, sources said here Tuesday.

Mr. Damanhuri, who coordinates Saudi students' studies in Lebanese universities, was kidnapped from his residence in the seaside Al-Rawshah area shortly after his arrival at Beirut International Airport, the sources said.

Mr. Damanhuri worked as cultural attache at the Saudi Embassy until it closed in September 1984, after fundamentalist Moslem Lebanese ransacked it to protest Riyadh's refusal to give them visas for a pilgrimage to the mosque.

On Tuesday unknown gunmen kidnapped Roger Auque, a French journalist.

15 Casualties in 13 Jan Israeli Air Raid

NC132026 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Three fighters were martyred, and another 12 were wounded in an Israeli raid on positions held by forces of the Fatah Uprising [Sa'id Musa Muragha group] in Wadi 'Ayda near Yanta in the Western al-Biqa'.

Parcel Bomb Addressed to Minister Birri

NC130720 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Security sources in West Beirut have disclosed that the parcel bomb that exploded at the post office in Riyadh al-Sulh yesterday was directed against Minister Nabih Birri. The parcel was addressed to Minister Birri, according to office head Yusuf Salih, who was injured in the incident.

The sources said that the parcel contained 1/2 kg of dynamite, attached to three chemical detonators designed to go off as soon as any pressure was applied in opening it. Investigations are underway to determine the origin and destination [as heard] of the parcel. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Fire at Amal Official's Home; PSP Clash

NC131022 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Gunmen in a car opened fire on the home of Amal Movement deputy leader 'Akif Haydar in the Al-Rawshah area [of West Beirut] at 1130 today. One guard was injured.

Noticeable tension currently prevails in the vicinity of the sports stadium following a clash between Amal and PSP gunmen at 1000. The fighting, which involved the use of rockets, lasted until after 1100. Amal official Nayif Al-Sahili was injured during the clash.

Amal Denies Report

NC131452 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] An Amal security source has denied reports carried by the local media this morning on an assassination attempt against Colonel 'Akif Haydar, the movement's deputy leader. The source explained that this information is unfounded, and that talk of a clash between Amal and the PSP is far from the truth. A PSP source has also denied the story, describing it as baseless.

An earlier security report noted that there had been some shooting near the Social Sciences Institute in Al-Rawshah, where Col Haydar's home is located. Weapons fitted with silencers were used, and Farah 'Ajami, one of the men guarding the house, was wounded. Gunmen were mobilized in the area, but the culprits have yet to be identified.

PSP Source Denies Clash

NC131343 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] In response to a report carried by the Phalangist and Lebanese Forces radios about a clash between Amal and PSP gunmen in the vicinity of the sports stadium, a PSP security source has affirmed that these rumors are groundless and simply hostile wishful thinking. These rumors are cheap lies, the purpose for which is known to everyone.

'Freemen of Beirut' in Separate Attack on Amal

NC131754 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The Freemen of Beirut claimed responsibility this evening for setting off two bombs in an attack on a group of Amal members in the 'A'isha Bakkar [name indistinct] Hammud area. The first device exploded at approximately 1500, while the second was detonated 15 minutes later, resulting in some property damage. A spokesman for the organization called on residents of West Beirut to stay away from Amal centers.

Sa'adah on Palestinian Presence, Economy

NC131517 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has called on all Lebanese leaders to shoulder their national responsibilities and meet at a national conference in which discussion would be restricted to two issues linked to the destiny of all the Lebanese people. He identified these two issues as a discussion of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the need to confront the war of starvation which is being waged against the Lebanese people. The need for the economy to be kept separate from politics must also be acknowledged.

The Phalangist Party leader made these statements during a news conference held at the Phalangist Party headquarters at 1100 today.

Dr Sa'adah said that any agreement over constitutional reforms will be in vain if there are no longer people able to live under these reforms.

Commenting on the camps war, he affirmed that the Phalangist Party's position is not limited to the course this war is taking or to its daily developments. He declared: Our stand is unchanging and clear with regard to the armed Palestinian presence. We have rejected this in all its forms throughout Lebanon.

He expressed the belief that the current economic deterioration is largely caused by the political deterioration, the break between the government and the regime, and the doubts cast on Lebanon's political and economic future. This has resulted in a loss of confidence in our national currency which constitutes a test of political stability for the country.

Paqraduni on Summit Meeting, Solution

NC140505 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, second-in-command of the Lebanese Forces, has stated that the Lebanese Forces Command Council has no objections to a Lebanese-Syrian summit, but reserves the right to take a final position on such a meeting in light of its results.

In an interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation tonight, Paqraduni said: The fact that we do not object to this summit is a function of two things: The first is the political nature of any solution to the Lebanese crisis. This means reaching agreement among the Lebanese, and coming to an understanding with the outside world. The second point is an objective one. We are satisfied with the course of preparatory negotiations for the summit. After all, it has become increasingly clear that the president of Republic has made no concessions to Syria. In fact, the opposite is true; it is Damascus which has backed down.

In response to a question, Paqraduni noted that Syria may have realized that wagers placed on weak leaders in Lebanon, and on those who lead in name only, will never pay off. Agreements with such people are easy to reach, but impossible to implement, as these leaders cannot guarantee their implementation. Accord and dialogue with Lebanon's strong and true leaders are difficult, but their results are easily put into practice.

Paqraduni maintained that the convocation of a summit means two things: The first is a closing of the books on the tripartite agreement with all its equations and alliances. The second is the start of a new era on the basis of fresh political equations and alliances. Paqraduni explained that Syria's international credibility had been put to the test. It was forced to either topple Amin al-Jumayyil or talk to him. It seems that Damascus has decided to talk.

In reply to another question, Paqraduni declared: We are satisfied that the preparatory negotiations are progressing well. We are paying close attention to all the details. We have tried from the very start not to get this process off on the wrong foot, for if we proceed from an incorrect premise, we will come up with an incorrect result.

He said: We do not believe a solution will come at the push of a button. It must be gradual. The first stage should be the termination of the state of war and the formation of a new government that can make decisions. This should be accompanied by the creation of a Lebanese Army that will expand its scope of operations and regain our sovereignty over time. The second stage should involve agreement on a formula for the Lebanon of the future; that is, the formula for a solution. The third stage is the acceptance of this settlement regionally and internationally. He pointed out that the first step in the first stage has begun.

PNF Meets, Condemns United States, Israel
JN132004 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The Progressive National Front [PNF] Central Command held a meeting this evening presided over by Comrade Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the PNF. The meeting reviewed Arab and international political developments and Syrian political moves against hostile U.S. imperialist and Zionist plans. The Central Command noted its great pride in Syria's wise and courageous policies, led by Struggling Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, in defending the dignity, freedom, and future of the Arab nation. The Central Command emphasized that Syria will stand firm against U.S. and Israeli pressures and will not flinch or give peace to capitulationists and defeatists. Syria will remain the base for Arab strugglers in their efforts to liberate occupied Arab land and secure the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, the Central Command said.

Al-Asad Receives Former Egyptian Minister
JN142039 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mahmud Riyad, former Egyptian foreign minister and former Arab League secretary general, at noon today.

Assembly Speaker Receives Former PNC Speaker
JN131812 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi received [former] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum here today. They discussed current Arab — particularly Palestinian — developments and Syria's great efforts, led by President al-Asad, on behalf of pan-Arab causes. They agreed on the need for increased efforts to pool Arab resources in the face of all kinds of pressures and conspiracies against the Arab nation and its liberation movement.

Soviet Religion Official Meets With Minister
JN131729 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers, has stated that his country appreciates Syria's stands and its struggle to frustrate hostile plots and all forms of imperialist and Zionist machinations, as well as its opposition to capitulationist solutions. He declared that the Soviet Union and Syria and their peoples share a common struggle in the same trench in the spirit of the bilateral Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. Kharchev's remarks were made during a working session in Damascus today between the Soviet official and Minister of Religious Trusts Dr Muhammad Muhammad al-Khatib.

Murphy Briefs Shamir on Talks in Jordan, Egypt

TA141133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy met at noon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and briefed him on his talks with King Husayn and President Mubarak concerning the continuation of the peace process. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports Murphy's impression is that Israel, Jordan, and Egypt are interested in promoting the peace process but differ on the way to do it. Israel supports direct negotiations while Jordan and Egypt are interested in an international conference.

It has been agreed that an additional round of talks will be held in Washington next month during Mr Shamir's visit there, after which Murphy will return to the area.

After his talk with the prime minister, the U.S. envoy met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In the afternoon he will talk with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Shamir Reiterates Position on Iran Contra Affair

TA132133 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that in the Iran affair we cannot and do not want to react to every malicious report or leak. In a meeting with members of the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington, Mr Shamir said Israel has all the facts to prove its position, and if we have to present our claims we will be very well prepared. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that in a letter George Bush sent to Shim'on Peres, the former added the protocol of the secret talk he held with 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's counterterrorism adviser, during his visit to Israel on 29 July last year. The issue of the transfer of funds to the contras was not raised in the talk. In his reply Minister Peres wrote that Israel was not involved in the contra affair, and it goes without saying that the issue of the transfer of funds could not have been raised in the talk with Nir.

MA'ARIV: U.S.'Tarnished' Friendship Over Iran

TA131529 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jan 87 p 10

[Commentary by Shmu'el Schnitzer: "And We Are Still Going To Keep Still?"]

[Text] If the Israeli Government is accurate in claiming that our involvement in the scandal of the arms supply to Iran was confined to heeding a U.S. request, merely by extending help to an ally that has been good to us on many occasions, then one cannot help but express deep astonishment and quite a bit of resentment at how our U.S. ally is paying us back for our services. Maybe those who help a friend in trouble should not expect a public statement of gratitude, but they certainly do not deserve the long series of unbridled denunciations and accusations with which the Americans have been remunerating our help. After all, friendship is a two-way street, and the attempt to make us the scapegoat in an affair that has turned into a fiasco and seriously damaged the U.S. Administration is a demonstration of ingratitude with which we find difficult to come to terms.

The documents published recently in Washington depict Israeli prime ministers as liars. Moreover, they lend credibility to the argument voiced on more than one occasion by the enemies of America and Israel, both at home and abroad, that Israel — meaning, the Jews — are running U.S. foreign policy. What is more, they accuse Israel of transferring part of the money received from Iran to the rebels fighting the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua. In other words, if the unfortunate Iran affair entailed any violations of U.S. law, these violations were not perpetrated by Americans. Rather, the Israelis are responsible for them.

One can infer from the U.S. version that not only did Israel initiate all the moves, but it also misled the U.S. Administration, fed it unfounded promises, and induced it to commit illegal acts.

Hence, we are not friends who were asked for help and agreed to extend it: We are the bad guys in the entire affair; we are the ones who conceived of the idea; we are the ones who pressured the Americans to get into a dubious deal; we are the ones who made them fail; we are the ones who thwarted the embargo on arms supply to Iran; and we are responsible for the fraudulent circumvention of the congressional ban on the transfer of funds to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Logic is on our side in this complicated affair, and the Israeli version would seem to be more credible than that of the Americans. It is totally inconceivable that we should have the power to make the Americans do what they do not want to do, and it is inconceivable that we should have used the supply of arms to Iran to transfer money to the Nicaraguan rebels through the backdoor. Assistance to the contras is an issue of dispute between the White House and Congress. Israel would not seem to have any interest in financing belligerent actions against the Sandinist regime in Central America. However, what is beyond dispute is that any arms shipped from Israel to Iran were sent with Washington's approval, in view of the fact that the U.S. version does confirm that the United States replaced the weapons we sent to Iran. Therefore, the attempt to depict us as the initiators of the entire deal, the political theoreticians behind it, and an active element in the struggle against the leftist regime in Nicaragua seems rather dubious.

Still, can we rely only on logic when senior officials and unfriendly journalists are mobilized to describe us as a negative element that is undermining the President and his aides and that is implicating America in disgraceful fiascos and, perhaps, even in illegal acts? Have our reputation, our candid intentions, and the traditional friendship between the United States and Israel, which is a vital necessity to us, not been tarnished here?

Can we really suffice with vague denials and the self-righteous expression of hope that all this will pass and the truth will come to light?

Israel's silence could be understood and perhaps even justified as long as Washington also maintained its discretion. However, in view of the fact that several parallel investigations are taking place in the United States, which have been releasing a constant

stream of leaks, and in view of the fact that the White House has released documents categorically denying the Israeli version and seriously accusing Israel, would it not be wise to react with a statement saying that we do not want to come to a confrontation with the United States and that we trust that the truth will have the upper hand?

Indeed, we do not want to get into an argument with the United States or to exchange recriminations and deny false testimonies. But how is the Israeli silence perceived by the U.S. public, and who can promise us that our silence might not be construed in America and elsewhere as an admission of guilt?

It is very easy to implicate the naive and innocent. It is far easier to implicate Jews, who are the traditional scapegoat responsible for every failure. However, there is nothing easier than implicating those who react to accusations by saying: We have explained on more than one occasion that we were merely silent partners to a failure for which the U.S. Administration is responsible. This old denial also applies to the new charges made against us in the wake of what has been termed an official and secret investigation.

Innocent parties tend to shout in protest when they are framed. They do not say that since they have denied the charges in the past they can now afford to swallow the humiliation in silence.

This is not how the innocent behave, and this is certainly not the natural behavior of anybody who agrees to offer help and finds himself denounced as being responsible for ensuing failures.

A sympathetic U.S. public is a vital bastion for Israel. The support we enjoy in the administration and in Congress stems from the appreciation the American man-on-the-street feels toward Israel and from the values embodied by this sense of appreciation. When our leaders are portrayed as liars and when we are denounced as intrigue hatchers and as saboteurs of U.S. policy, our reaction cannot be a mere shrug.

A real danger is entailed here, and we should not sit idly by and wait for it to fade away of its own volition.

Differences Delay Signing of Economic Package

TA131505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The signing of the package deal between the Histadrut, the government, and employers has been postponed until tomorrow. In this afternoon's contacts the sides were not able to iron out the differences of opinion, mainly the issue of the Histadrut pension funds. The sides hope to find a solution by today and to sign the agreement tomorrow.

Shamir on Economic Plan

TA131846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by program moderator Karmit Gay and economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text][Gay] We would like to interview the prime minister. Good evening to you, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Gay] Actually, until this very moment your voice has not been heard on the new economic measures. We have heard the vice prime minister and the representatives of the Treasury, the Histadrut, and the private employers, but we have not yet heard you.

[Shamir] Well, if you mean the period from this morning until now you are right. I was occupied with other matters, and I trusted my colleagues to explain the government's decisions.

[Friedman] Sir, if we were to give a general description of the impact of the economic plan on individuals and wage-earners, we would clearly say there will be an increase in the burden on Israeli citizens to finance the services they receive in terms of education, health, and other spheres. Will this be yet another year in which Israeli citizens will have a hard time making a living in Israel?

[Shamir] I think that although the burden will increase to a certain extent here and there, so will the chances for economic growth and expansion — that is the main point. This is the objective of all of us, and this was also the goal of the resolutions passed by the government last night. If this calls for a certain effort on behalf of our citizens for a period of a year, then this is fully justified. The success of the July 1985 plan shows that, as I hope, we should expect success in the second phase of the current plan.

[Friedman] Do you think all the necessary economic measures have been taken to ensure that the needy and those with low incomes are not severely affected by this plan?

[Shamir] Undoubtedly, efforts have been made not to affect the needy. This was our motto from the moment we began drawing up this plan. Of course, such a comprehensive plan that includes so many complex issues — I believe this is the first time such a plan has been adopted — had to entail several mutual concessions. Ultimately it may be said that none of the pertinent bodies is 100 percent satisfied. However, I think this is the best product the national unity government could have produced. I must say I feel pleased today since this is yet another achievement of the national unity government.

[Friedman] The party you head carries the banner of liberal economic principles. Some critics say that the prime minister and his staff are implementing liberal economic principles in Israel, that they are doing well by the rich and worsening the lot of the needy.

[Shamir] This is a distorted approach. This plan is not a matter of liberal economic principles. I would not put it that way. This is a matter of principles that will succeed in improving the status and condition of our economy. Most Western countries, even those headed by socialist governments, are now following this path. I have frequently heard this much in my meetings with statesmen of various countries, including those on the left.

[Friedman] The 10-percent devaluation is a dramatic move that, along with reducing subsidies on basic commodities and raising their prices, gives rise to fear about an outbreak of mounting inflation and price hikes. Are you at ease with this subject? Did you get satisfactory answers on this matter?

[Shamir] Such a plan entails risks. Any economic plan entails certain indispensable risks. [Several words indistinct due to 1-second halt in transmission] in the pace of their implementation. I do not think there is any danger at present that the devaluation will jeopardize our economic stability. This is definitely a one-time move and we will not repeat it for a long time — this is the government's policy. Our purpose is to guarantee economic stability both by creating new jobs and increasing production and exports. On the other hand, I think that by not affecting the needy... [changes thought] For instance, we will also lower interest rates, which is a most important element in developing the economy. We will also ease the tax burden on many sectors and earmark funds to develop business — I think that all these taken together should bring us a new era of growth and progress.

[Friedman] Sir, isn't the very active involvement of Vice Prime Minister Peres in attaining the agreement actually an admission that any important economic decision depends on the Alignment's cooperation, particularly as far as understanding with the Histadrut is concerned?

[Shamir] I think there is an element of exaggeration in the way this aspect is being highlighted. After all, this cooperation is the main goal of the national unity government, which was established mainly to overcome Israel's economic problems through cooperation between the economic and political bodies. Indeed, the system is working. Everybody contributes his share, and the results are welcome. It is a well known fact, at least to those who know me, that I am more concerned with the national goal than with giving prominence to this or that person.

[Friedman] The tax reform, which is such an important part of the economic plan, underwent numerous changes before its abridged version was approved by the government. Why was your voice not heard in the difficult struggle the finance minister waged against his critics?

[Shamir] The struggle had nothing to do with making one's voice heard. It called for gentle persuasion and a firm position, and I think I stood by him on this issue. In addition, it may be said that although the tax reform lacks some of the elements it originally included, it is good and positive and will achieve its goal. The annulment of tax exemptions that greatly help the needy was dropped. However, even if they had been annulled we would have made every possible effort not to harm the needy. The exemptions were not annulled, and some changes were made in the tax brackets. I think these concessions were worthwhile to attain the cooperation of all the economic sectors, thus ensuring the success of the entire program.

[Friedman] During the deliberations on cuts in the state budget, in anticipation of the implementation of the other parts of the plan, there was an argument about the defense budget. Ultimately the defense budget was not slashed. What is your position on the matter?

[Shamir] I am not sorry about that. From the beginning I said that in view of the situation in the region and the balance of power, I do not advocate a cut in the defense budget. I was in favor of a more symbolic slash of 30 million shekels, which, when compared with the volume of the defense budget, is a negligible sum. This was not accepted either, but I am not particularly sorry about it. The Treasury initially proposed a cut of some 480 million shekels, and we agreed on 400 million. Therefore, I think that the fact that an unanimous agreement was reached on the matter should be considered an accomplishment. The entire plan, including the budget, was unanimously approved by the Cabinet yesterday.

[Friedman] May the fact that the defense budget was not slashed be construed as a positive signal to Israel Aircraft Industries that the Lavi project will definitely go on?

[Shamir] There is no direct connection. The Lavi project has other aspects and entails other financial and economic issues. Deliberations on the matter are currently being held by the Defense Ministry, and they will be continued later by other government bodies. I hope we will make the right decision that will enable the continued development of the Lavi while not impairing other important interests of the defense establishment.

[Friedman] Sir, you are very optimistic about the success of the plan. Would you be so kind as to tell us how you see the economy in 1987?

[Shamir] I think we have the basis for success, a success that must be reflected in economic growth, an increase in production and exports, and more jobs. Workers will enjoy their wages better because their paychecks will increase, despite the fact that we will not increase wages. We must not raise wages this year, or else we will miss our goal. I think we will prosper by the end of the year, we will not have to effect so many cuts in the budget, and we will be able to meet the justified requirements of the various services provided by the government.

[Friedman] On this optimistic note, we thank you for this interview, Mr Prime Minister.

Peres, Nisim on Objectives

TA130637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says the economic program creates the conditions for economic growth and continues to stem inflation. Interviewed on our morning new program Peres said the economic program was meant to avoid creating unemployment, deepening the social gap, and harming the

weaker strata. On the other hand, the program will promote exports without unemployment and provide encouragement for industry.

As for the decision to raise the prices of subsidized goods, Mr Peres said this is a very moderate increase. He maintains that economists consider the program to be very good, believing it includes the optimal conditions that could be obtained in Israel at the moment.

Finance Minister Moshe Nisim said the Cabinet approved the three reforms he proposed — namely the tax reform, the capital market reform, and the reform in the monetary policy, which means lowering the interest rates on industrial credit. He, too, noted that the program's main objectives are preparing the economy for growth and moving from relative economic stability to economic stability and growth. Mr Nisim pointed out that the state budget cuts are realistic and were not in fact imposed on the public in the form of new decrees. As for the devaluation of the shekel, Nisim said he only supported it after he learned that its full inflationary impact may be offset. He promised that the rate of exchange will remain stable for a very long time and added that those who trust this statement will not lose.

Regarding the cost-of-living increment, he said the increment that has been agreed upon will not be paid during the stabilizing period, namely from today until the end of March 1988.

Nisim Discusses Goals

TA132129 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Interview with Finance Minister Moshe Nisim by economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar — live in the studio]

[Excerpt][Shahar] Mr Nisim, why was it necessary to create such a chaos in the economy: devaluation, increased prices?

[Nisim] First, I do not know what you mean when you speak about increased prices. When you look at things in terms of more than a year, the prices of three subsidized goods have gone up comparatively moderately. I suggest that we stop the public debate over this issue, which is meaningless.

[Shahar] Even a 10 percent devaluation is meaningless?

[Nisim] I was referring to the increased prices. The devaluation was necessary to solve the problem of the profitability of exports, as well as our balance of payments problems. Imports have gone up while exports have not, and there is a balance of payments gap. We examined various alternatives in the last 3 months to bring about stability in the economy and to make exports profitable. We reached this arrangement following lengthy and discrete talks. Let me say that under no circumstances would we have carried out the devaluation — I would not have signed it — if we had not ensured that it would be completely neutralized. Had we not neutralized the devaluation — if the rate of exchange had started fluctuating — this would have created instability, and I would not lend my hand to this.

[Shahar] Mr Nisim, the government has decided on a devaluation, there has been a rise in the price of subsidized goods, the workers have forfeited part of the cost-of-living allowances, and the employers will pay less taxes. Now let us look at what has happened with inflation. Since July the index has gone up constantly: from zero percent in July to almost 3 percent in November. The assessment in the government is that December's index will be low. But instead of taking advantage of this forecast for December, the government devalues the shekel and takes steps that actually create inflation. Are we starting an inflationary trend now?

[Nisim] First let me say that this forecasted decline in inflation was a positive thing, and it could have continued for another 2 or 3 months before a devaluation. However, at the same time the profitability of exports would have gone down, and then we would have had a very serious problem in our balance of payments situation. We therefore had to search for a way that would ensure us a stable rate of exchange for a long period. We also needed to make exports profitable so we could cope with our balance of payments situation and prevent heavy unemployment, a situation that could have been created as a result of the failure of many factories. We therefore chose the best way, which will indeed cause higher inflation in the next 2 or 3 months. However, if the conditions we set are fulfilled — that is, if the cost-of-living allowances are not paid completely — if the cost of labor is decreased by means of the national security institute — something the government took upon itself — if salaries do not go up, and if international conditions are favorable, then we can expect lower inflation in 1987. Then we will make exports favorable and our rate of exchange will become stable for a long period. This is an important objective. I will not lend my hand to a long-term fluctuation in the rate of exchange. If our expectations are met and inflation goes down, we will be out of the vicious cycle. Our main job is to ensure stability, and stability in the present condition means a further decrease in inflation and preparing the economy for growth.

[Shahar] Mr Minister, let us discuss the tax reform. The plan approved by the government is not the plan you submitted approximately 1 month ago. You said we would pay less than 50 percent in taxes, and here we see — even if this is a temporary situation — a 53 percent tax and higher tax brackets than you proposed. Is this the plan that will bring us growth?

[Nisim] I hope the public, and mainly the media, which did not give the plan much chance and even ridiculed it, will have the courage to admit that the government approved the economic plan I submitted 3 weeks ago in its entirety, except for one change. Perhaps I can now divulge that this plan was personally prepared by me. In a meeting with the vice prime minister more than 2 weeks ago we finished the plan, without the intervention of any other element. This plan says that the highest marginal taxes will be 48 percent and no more. In other words, what I proposed to the government is that the citizens will keep most of their money and there will be benefits for all levels of tax brackets. It is true I proposed cancelling the exemptions; not all of them, but most of them. My proposal was the best thing, and if it had been accepted, the reform would have been more equitable, and the low income group would have benefited more. But if my proposal was not selected then I am not opposed,

because we have here a real reform which increases incentive to work because of the decrease in marginal taxes. This reform also encourages investments and growth. I think that this reform is good enough and that together with the other reforms I proposed there will now be a beginning of growth in the economy.

[Shahar] Mr Nisim, do you intend to again raise your proposal to cancel the exemptions, or did you shelve this proposal permanently?

[Nisim] It has not been shelved. Mr Peres and I concluded that after some time we would appoint a committee of experts to deepen the reform, this by means of broadening the tax base. [passage omitted]

Levi Submits Plan for 6 New Settlements

TA131103 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with a plan for the establishment of six new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Details of the plan were also submitted to Finance Minister Moshe Nisim.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports the plan involves two settlements on the southern slopes of the Hebron hills, one settlement on the Gaza coast, one in Gush 'Ezyon, and two in Samaria. Minister Levi said his ministry is prepared to implement the plan immediately upon approval by the Cabinet. He emphasized that all six settlements had been approved by the previous Cabinet. The cost of carrying out the plan will be 18 million new shekels, a sum that includes building an infrastructure, 25 housing units, and public buildings in each of the settlements.

Soviet Peace Delegation Arrives 13 Jan

TA140945 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jan 87 p 3

[Report by Yosef Galili]

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee arrived in Israel last night on a week-long visit at the invitation of an initiating committee including members of MAPAM, the Alignment, the Citizens Rights Movement, and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality].

"During its stay in Israel, the delegation plans to meet with Knesset members, various public figures, and representatives of peace organizations in the Middle East. It also plans to strengthen the friendly ties it has with public groups in Israel working for peace," said Nikolay Bochkov, the chairman of the delegation, who is a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences, the head of the Genetics Institute at the USSR Academy of Sciences, and vice president of the Soviet organization of doctors opposed to nuclear weapons.

"The visit," said Bochkov, "is aimed at helping to promote practical dialogue and to improve relations between our peoples. We will also meet with scientists of the Weizmann Institute and Tel Aviv University, although this visit is not of a scientific nature."

In reply to correspondents' questions he said: "The undamaged reactors at Chernobyl are functioning, while the reactor that was damaged has been closed off and the level of safety against nuclear radiation is being maintained."

In response to the *'Al Hamishmar* correspondent's question on whether the new regulations on the exit of Jews who want to come to Israel will really be implemented, Konstantin Geyvandov, a political commentator for *Izvestiya*, said that the new emigration regulations that went into effect on 1 January 1987 aim to ease the solution of humanitarian problems concerning the reunification of families that want to leave or enter the Soviet Union. "The real results of the regulations," he added, "if not yet apparent at present, will be evident in the future."

ALGERIA

GUNT President, Delegation Arrive for Talks

LD140049 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Acheikh ibn Oumar, president of the new Chadian GUNT, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Algeria yesterday on a visit that will last several days. During the visit, he will have talks about developments in Chad. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

JANA on Clashes Among Habre Forces in Chad

LD131125 Tripoli JANA in English 1019 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, Ay-Alnar 13, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Disputes and clashes broke out between forces of "Jamousi" and forces of themisfortuned renegade "Adam Yaaqoub," which led to fighting among their followers that left a number of the innocent Chadian people dead.

The dispute broke out on who should be in command of the forces which agent Habre assigned with killing the innocent and destroying villages which inhabitants refused to recognise the puppet regime in Ndjamena.

The agent of France and U.S. "Adam Yaaqoub", with his stained past, tried to cheat the liberation (ALFEB) forces to join agent Habre, who usurped the legitimate authority in Chad, and is being exposed as he really is. When these forces knew about his treason clashes broke out between him and "Mohamed al-Dabbash" and the rest of other forces which are starting to return and rejoin the liberation [words indistinct] the legitimate national unity government.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Reagan 'Endangering Humanity'

HK140426 Hong Kong AFP in English 0415 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Madrid, Jan 14 (AFP) — The existence of "demented" people like Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, in addition to Zionism, is endangering humanity, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in an interview in the Spanish weekly magazine *Epoca*.

He said he was against terrorism, which he described as an attack on purely civilian targets, but said a distinction had to be made between terrorists and those who were conducting a revolutionary struggle.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said his and his people's "sole sin is that we are good, very good, innocent. We look at the world through this innocence, and we have discovered it is not civilised".

Criticising Spain's socialist government for turning the country into a base for the U.S. Sixth Fleet, he said rapprochement between Libya and the United States was a possibility after President Reagan had left office, and he would do all he could to achieve that improvement.

The colonel also said he could turn Libya into a communist state as a challenge to "aggressive" U.S. policy though "politically and militarily that would be very dangerous as it would rupture the balance of forces not only in the Mediterranean area and Europe, but worldwide".

He said the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict was for the Jews to return to their countries of origin.

Regarding his failed bids to form a union between Libya and Tunisia (1974) and Morocco (1984), Col al-Qadhdhafi said he always knew the fusion with Tunisia would not come about, and as regards Morocco, "I had a feeling from the beginning that the other hand signing the treaty was a hesitant hand".

Islamic Call Society Issues Communique

LD131043 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA) — The third meeting of preachers of the World Islamic Call Society of West Africa ended in Tripoli yesterday evening. The preachers of the World Islamic Call Society, who are engaged in spreading Islam among the peoples of West Africa, issued the following final communique:

Under the slogan "Progress means the propagation of Islam," the third meeting of the preachers of the World Islamic Call Society of West Africa was held in Tripoli from 7 to 12 January 1987. The convocation of the third meeting on the soil of the Islamic al-Fatih revolution was in response to the strong desire of the preachers to reaffirm that they and all the Muslim masses in West Africa stand by the Muslim people of the Jamahiriyah in their challenge to the crusading and imperialist forces, which are trying to harm the people of the Jamahiriyah and limit their support to Muslims everywhere.

In addition to the preachers of West Africa, the meeting was attended by delegations from Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Tonga, the Philippines, and the United States. The participants in the meeting studied for 5 days the best ways to spread the Islamic call, and lectures were delivered on the following topics:

— The principles of the Islamic call in light of the holy Koran.

— The mosque and its role in linking Muslims with their fateful issues.

— The Arabic language as the way for Muslims to reaffirm their nobility of descent.

— An Islam without sects.

— The people's and Islamic congresses as a means of practicing Islamic consultation [shura].

— Al-Fatih as an Islamic revolution.

— Islam as God's religion.

— Jihad for the sake of God as continuous revolution.

— The preacher's program in light of the resolutions of the Third Conference of Islamic Preachers.

The program also included reports from the preachers in every West African country about the call, the problems affecting its progress, and a study of the best means to overcome those problems. The participants heard speeches from the delegations taking part in the meeting; from Sudan, the Philippines, Tonga, Ghana, Nigeria, the United States, and the Federation of Islamic Societies of Senegal. They all saluted the World Islamic Call Society for its continuous support for Muslims and their interests and for its prompt endeavors to unify the words of Muslims everywhere. The speeches also lauded the pioneering role of the Great Jamahiriyah in supporting Islam and Muslims and its steadfast stand alongside all the deprived and the weak throughout the world.

The participants attended part of the meetings of the basic people's congresses and expressed admiration for the direct democracy practised by the Muslim Arab people in Libya in implementation of God's word: Their affair shall be counselled [Koranic verse].

The highlight of the gathering was the meeting between the participants and the brother leader of the Islamic al-Fatih Revolution, who made an instructive speech in which he dealt with the crusading ambitions in Africa that aim to enslave Muslims, plunder their wealth and destroy their shrines. He reaffirmed that Muslims, especially in West Africa, have no alternative to [word indistinct] the crusading attempts, but to declare jihad on every occasion using diverse methods against the crusading colonialists, their symbols, and lackeys who perpetuate the colonialist domination and pave the way for the crusaders to subjugate and enslave Muslims.

At the conclusion of their meeting the participants adopted the following resolutions:

1. To adopt the address of the brother leader of the revolution as a permanent program of action and to consider it as the first directive for 1987.

2. To consider the resolutions of the Third General Conference of Islamic Preachers as a program of action for preachers of the Islamic Call.

3. The participants underline that if Muslims want to face up to crusading ambitions to enslave them and to destroy their shrines, they must declare effective jihad against all crusading bases in Africa and against the agents and spies of crusaders in Islamic countries. They declare to all Muslims that the rancorous crusading assault by France and the United States against the Muslim Chadian people is nothing but another link in a greater crusading conspiracy aimed at Islam throughout Africa and threatening the Great Jamahiriyah, a citadel of Islam that defends Muslims everywhere. They have decided to incite Muslim masses in West Africa against French and U.S. interests everywhere.

4. The preachers stress the need for continuous action to unite Muslims, shun fragmentation, and turn all Islamic sects and groups, which crusading colonialism wants to use to fight Islam, into jihad units to hit at the interests of crusaders and make their treachery rebound against them.

5. The preachers draw attention to the importance of the role of mosques in the preparation of a generation believing in the need to revive the religious duty of jihad with all possible sacrifice, and they have decided to undertake the preparation of an Islamic education program for this as soon as they return home.

6. The participants pledge to observe consultation as an Islamic principle through Islamic people's congresses that will rally all Muslims in every village and city.

MAURITANIA

President Receives Message From SDAR Leader

LD130951 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jan 87

[Text] Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received Mohamed Salem Ould Sadek, secretary general at the Presidency of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and special envoy of President Mohamed Abdelaziz, this morning.

Following the meeting, which was attended by Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation, the Saharan envoy said that he had conveyed to his excellency the president a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz, related to the development of the situation in northwest Africa.

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Leaves for Portugal 13 Jan

LD132157 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 13 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki left Rabat today to pay an official 3-day visit to Portugal. The prime minister is accompanied by an important ministerial delegation that includes the minister of tourism; the minister of ocean fisheries and merchant marine; Moulay Zine Zahidi, the minister accredited to the prime minister in charge of economic affairs; the minister of energy and mines; the minister of trade and industry [as heard]; Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and senior officials and representatives of economic sectors in our country.

Dr Laraki made a statement at Rabat Airport. He said that God willing, I am going to Lisbon at the invitation of my Portuguese opposite number. This visit falls within the context of efforts by Morocco and Portugal to consolidate their cooperation in all fields. I am accompanied by at least six ministers, in addition to an important group of businessmen, contractors, and heads of economic establishments. This indicates the importance of this

visit and the positive results we expect for bilateral relations in all fields. Answering a question on Morocco's relations with the EEC, the prime minister said that this will be one of the issues discussed. The Moroccan delegation will defend our country's point of view regarding the effects of its joining the market on countries having similar products to those of Portugal and Spain. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message on Chad

JN131643 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1434 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was given a verbal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, on consolidating relations between Sudan and Libya, as well as on issues of common interest, when he received Ra'lul al-Sanusi, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy, here today.

In a press statement, Ra'lul, who arrived yesterday, explained that the message dealt with the current conflict in neighboring sisterly Chad, as well as current efforts to find a Chadian-African solution to the Chad issue. The message dealt with how to obstruct foreign intervention by unifying efforts with Sudan to draw up a plan to end the ongoing conflict. Ra'lul added that the Chad question concerns both Sudan and Libya because most of the Chadian border is along Sudan and Libya.

Iran's Besharati on Iraqi Opposition Contacts

JN141212 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 14. (SUNA) — Iranian deputy foreign minister affirmed that Iranian people are not against Iraqi people but against the ruling system there.

In a press conference held here yesterday by the visiting Iranian delegation, the Iranian official said that his country has contacted Iraq opposition groups in a bid to unify them against the current system in Iraq.

On his visit to Sudan, he said it comes in the context of strengthening bilateral relations.

Referring to the forthcoming Islamic Summit Conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait this month, he said Kuwait has no security guarantees to host the conference.

On the Egyptian prisoners of war in his country he explained that there are no Egyptian prisoners in Iran but only Egyptian mercenaries, and if Egypt wants to negotiate about them it must stop supporting Iraq with the war pilots that are used for bombing Iranian cities.

He affirmed the Iranian commitment to the stability and security in the Gulf.

The Iranian delegation has arrived here on Monday on an official visit of several days to the country.

Al-Mirghani Receives Maltese President

JN131322 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 13 (SUNA) — Chairman of the State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani met here yesterday with Agatha Barbara, president of the Republic of Malta.

The meeting discussed means of boosting bilateral relations between the two countries in addition to current issues on the international arena and the Middle East area.

The Maltese president arrived here yesterday on a 4-day visit, the first to Sudan by a Maltese head of state.

Commander in Chief Briefs Al-Mirghani on South

JN131325 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 13, SUNA — Chairman of the State Council, Ahmad al-Mirghani was briefed on the situation of the Armed Forces particularly those in southern Sudan.

The briefing took place at the Republican Palace when the Armed Forces commander-in-chief Gen. Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil called on Al-Mirghani yesterday.

Al-Fadil told SUNA that he briefed Al-Mirghani on the situation of the troops in the three military areas in the south stressing the high morale of the troops there.

He described the outlaws as scattered bandits saying that the Armed Forces were chasing the outlaws in a bid to prevent them from attacking the citizens' properties and curtail their deployment.

The commander added that Al-Mirghani had praised the efforts being exerted by the Armed Forces in harsh conditions.

SPLA Forces Intercept Convoy, Fight 3 Battles

EA131525 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Excerpts] A combined SPLA force comprising units from Bee, Fire, Rajaf, Zalan, and Kalashnikov Battalions has fought three big battles with the enemy forces between Rumbek and Tonj following interception of a huge enemy convoy heading for Rumbek.

Radio SPLA correspondent in the area says that the first clash occured on 1st January 1987 at Barjel when a company of Zalan Battalion engaged enemy troops on whom it inflicted heavy casualties. The following day, on 2d January, units of Bee and Rajaf ambushed the enemy convoy at Marial Teng killing over

100 enemy troops including two officers. Three lorries, two Magirus trucks, and two armoured personnel carriers were all destroyed in this battle, which our correspondent said was particularly fierce. A total of 50 G-3 rifles were picked from the dead bodies of enemy soldiers killed in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent says that a vast quantity of 12.7 mm antiaircraft gun ammunition and G-3 rifle ammunition, in addition to military uniforms and currency notes representing salaries, were all destroyed when the vehicles in which they were being transported exploded after being hit by heavy gunfire. A Thompson radio communications set was also later found in the wreckage of the burnt out cars. [passage omitted]

According to our correspondent, the third and final clash in this series of battles took place on 3d January 1987 between SPLA units of Niran, [word indistinct] Fire Battalions, and Kalashnikov on the one hand and enemy forces on the other. The enemy death toll in this engagement has been put at 20. A large but unspecified number of enemy troops were also injured. [passage omitted]

SPLA: Army Takes Food Destined for Civilians

EA102204 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Jan 87

["Press statement by the SPLM/SPLA political-military high command on the Sudanese Army's abuse of international relief organizations"]

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA has on several occasions during the past year obtained irrefutable proof of the methods used by members of the Sudanese Armed Forces in the south in taking relief food destined for the starving civilians. In Juba the food supplied by relief organizations was forcibly diverted to the Army. The same happened in Wau. During the same year the government Army parachuted bags of wheat, flour, and other food items bearing the mark of the donors. These (?blatant) violations of the agreement between the relief organizations and the Sudan Government have been exposed to the public by both Radio SPLA and the movements newsletter, but apparently some organizations and others thought we were conducting propaganda.

However, recently a source which is not affiliated to the SPLM/SPLA exposed one of these abuses being made by some members of the government Army by taking over food and other needed items for the starving, and the use of the vehicles taking these items to the south for transporting heavy artillery. In its issue Number 150 of 5th January 1987, the independent Sudanese English-language daily *Sudan Times* reported that a UN-sponsored convoy of 73 Italian food-aid trucks carrying food supplies and medicines for Wau was reported to have been taken by the troops by force. According to the newspaper report, based on the account of a witness, the convoy left Khartoum on Christmas day and was accompanied by 15 soldiers posing as security guards. At Jabal Awliya, southwest of Khartoum, 200 more members of the government soldiers took over and loaded the trucks with 20 t [as heard] of heavy artillery. The soldiers who boarded the trucks, *Sudan Times* has reported, ransacked the contents as they searched the vehicles, though the insignia of the UN and all particulars about them are given in detail. The newspaper report says this abuse of humanitarian efforts by bodies which are not participants in the Sudanese war has angered the donors.

We have been proved right that the government's cry for sending of food, medicines, and clothing to the famine-affected citizens in government-held towns and the use of the trucks to transport government troops and their military hardware is merely a coverup to enable it exploit relief for war purposes. Also, we condemn without reservation the government's use of food supplied by international aid relief organization and governments, and the use of relief vehicles to carry weapons.

We make a qualification. We do not attack the Sudanese Army as a whole. The blame rests squarely on shoulders of the officers in the Sudanese Army who are executing the government's policy. The Army is a national institution and its job is to protect the territorial integrity of the country, lives and property of the citizens from foreign aggression. Their willingness to support and execute policies of the government of the day amounts to interfering in politics. We appeal to the patriotic officers, NCO's and men of the Sudanese Army to isolate those officers who pledged themselves to the service of a government which does not genuinely represent the majority of the Sudanese people. [passage indistinct]

We also appeal to the international relief organizations to help the starving people of the Sudan through the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), which has proved capable and caring for the welfare of the people, as shown by the case of Narus refugees camp, and not to accept intimidation. We know how difficult it is for the organizations which do not want to take sides to operate unhindered. Oxfam, for instance, was subjected to intimidation and harassment by the government because it could not accept to be used by the government to further the interest of Khartoum. To save our starving, the SPLM/SPLA and all independent voluntary organizations can expose and isolate the government whose interest is the pursuit of war, instead of peace and the alleviation of hunger and disease.

Eastern Region Official on Refugees, Security

JN101109 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1034 GMT 10 Jan 87

[Text] Kassala/Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA) — 'Umar 'Uthman Karrar, the Eastern Region governor, says measures are now in place to establish security in the area, which is suffering from the arrival of a large number of immigrants and from Ethiopian air raids. He said securing the border areas and establishing peace were top priorities, which could bolster government efforts to forestall outside aggression. The governor was speaking in Kassala during a function in his honor.

CAMEROON

Egypt's Ghali Arrives for Joint Commission Talks

AB131540 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The deliberations of the second session of the Cameroon-Egypt joint commission begin this morning at 1000 in the conference hall of the Ministry of Plan and Territorial Development, and in the presence of Mahamat Papa Sale, minister delegate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Egyptian delegation, which is led by Ghali, arrived at Yaounde International Airport from Cairo yesterday and was welcomed by the minister delegate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage indistinct]

Scientific Research Agreement Signed With GDR

AB132156 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The East German Democratic Republic and Cameroon today signed an agreement on scientific research in Yaounde. The cooperation agreement, which provides for the training of Cameroonian researchers in East German universities, was directed by East German vice minister of higher education and scientific research, Prof Sigfreid Shancke, and Cameroon colleague, Abdoulaye Babale.

The East German delegation left Yaounde today for the Tsang and Douala University centers.

CHAD

Continuing Reportage on Libyan Military Action

Launches Attack on Zouar

AB131400 Paris AFP in French 1338 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 13 Jan (AFP) — The Libyan Army this morning launched an attack on the Zouar region to regain control of this region of the extensive Tibesti Province in the northwestern part of Chad, situated not far from the border with Niger, it was learned from reliable sources in the Chadian capital.

At dawn the Libyan Air Force set the tone by "undertaking massive shelling" before the mechanized infantry and artillery units began the fighting on the ground, these sources add.

The attack seemed to be continuing in the early afternoon, and no further information was available in Ndjamena on the extent of the fighting.

Sending Troops Via Niger, Sudan

AB131902 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 13 (AFP) — Libya is sending troops through neighbouring Niger and Sudan into northern Chad to pursue its war against Ndjamena government forces, diplomatic and government sources said here Tuesday. They said the two countries, which border both Libya and Chad, to the west and east, respectively, had not made a public protest because they were frightened of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The sources said Libya had sent between 700 and 1,000 men through Niger, with artillery and tanks mounted on transporters, between late December and early January to be used in the offensive reportedly launched early Tuesday at Zouar, in north of Chad, the sources said.

The Libyans had also mined the track which the convoy took, blowing up a Niger military vehicle which was trying to gather information, the sources added.

In the east, Tripoli was sending units of motorised infantry and armour through Sudan to take in the rear the government forces who threw Libyan troops out of the northern oasis of Fada on January 2, the sources said. [sentence as received]

The sources added that France and the United States viewed the case of Niger particularly seriously. Paris and Niamey have close relations and a military cooperation agreement, while Washington is improving an airfield at Dirkou in eastern Niger, not far from the border with Chad.

Libya is said to occupy a strip of northern Niger territory similar to Chad's disputed Aouzou strip, including the oasis of Tuommo where the convoy was formed up. It has built an airfield there and asphalted the road from Sabha in southern Libya.

GABON

French-African Economic Group Session Opens

AB112153 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Libreville has become a real center of interest in African economic news with the opening of the French-African meeting. This meeting, the first of its kind, was initiated by the French Ministry of Cooperation. More than 600 delegates are attending the conference, including 250 African business executives. It is hoped that contacts and discussions at the meeting will lead to the creation of concrete investment projects and fruitful business partnerships.

The aim of the meeting is indeed to encourage discussions between those in charge of the economy; that is, businessmen, business executives, and national policy makers. The meeting was opened this morning by political leaders: Gabonese President Omar Bongo; his minister of state for industries and state firms, Etienne Moussirou; and by the chief organizer of this forum, the

French minister of cooperation, Michel Aurillac. [passage omitted]

ZAIRE

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives 8 Jan

AB091320 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1620 GMT 8 Jan 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 8 Jan (AZAP) — A seven-member Soviet economic delegation led by Yuriy Slavgorodskiy, member of the state committee for economic relations with Africa, arrived in Kinshasa on Thursday [8 January] from Moscow via Brazzaville.

Mr Slavgorodskiy told the press that his delegation will discuss cooperation with the competent authorities, notably in the fields of transport and metal works. This, he indicated, specifically concerns the construction of the Kinshasa-Ilebo rail line, rail lines for urban transport in Kinshasa, and projects of extracting and processing mineral ores. The Soviet delegation and the Zairian authorities will finalize issues regarding the contracts and forms of participation for these projects.

Mr Slavgorodskiy placed the visit within the framework of returning the one recently made to the USSR by a National Association of Zairian Enterprises delegation.

The USSR, he said, is willing to cooperate in all areas with Zaire and other Third World countries, in line with the new economic orientation adopted at the 27th CPSU Congress which called for the USSR's increased socioeconomic development and for increased economic relations with foreign nations by broadening the development possibilities of Third World countries.

The Soviet delegation, which will be in Zaire for 2 weeks, comprises representatives of the Technostrov-Export Company (specialized in the construction of roads), of the Ministry of Construction, Urbanism and Housing, and two experts from the Ministry of Metallurgy. It was met on arrival by Ndimba-Muanda, official at the Europe directorate of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Transport Projects Discussed

AB132152 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1515 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 13 Jan (AZAP) — The Zairian-Soviet experts' meeting held last night under the chairmanship of Citizen Sampassa Kaweta Milombe, state commissioner for transport and communications, centered on the Ilebo-Kinshasa railroad and the Kinshasa trolley bus projects.

On this occasion, Citizen Sampassa stressed the Executive Council'sparticular interest in the construction of the Ilebo-Kinshasa railroad, an 800-km-long railroad which would complete the realization of an uninterrupted "national way," linking the Shaba mining region directly to the Atlantic Ocean across more than 2,900 km. Tha state commissioner for transport and communications indicated that the USSR'S assistance to Zaire in the implementahion of this project will be welcome.

Concerning the second project — the construction of a trolley bus network in Kinshasa — the state commissioner said that though the project was opportune, it was necessary for the experts to go intothe field to make a complete and realistic study of the various aspects to be taken into consideration.

The project, the cost of which is estimated at $60 million covering the feasibility studies, the installations, and the supply of 60 trolley buses, is designed to relieve the congestion of public transport in the capital and will cover a radius of around 25 km.

Valentin Goldatov, USSR amabssador to Zaire, who led the Soviet experts delegation, assured the state commissioner of the desire of his country's government to further strengthen cooperation with Zaire, especially in the key sector of transport.

The meeting, which lasted over an hour, ended with a round of preliminary discussions between Zairian and Soviet experts led by Citizen Munongo Mukalagi, permanent secretary in the department of transport and communications, and Yuriy Slavgorodskiy, principal expert in the division of economic cooperation with African countries in the USSR state committee on external relations.

The seven-man Soviet experts delegation, which arrived in Kinshasa on 8 January and which is scheduled to leave for home on 21 January, will continue discussions with the Zairian experts today at the headquarters of the study group on transport.

Senegalese Parliamentarians Arrive 8 Jan

AB091604 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0813 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 9 Jan (AZAP) – An important Senegalese parliamentary delegation led by Daouda Sow, speaker of the National Assembly, arrived in Kinshasa last night for a 10-day visit to Zaire at the invitation of the Legislative Council chairman.

Mr Sow, who declared his happiness to be in Kinshasa at the beginning of the new year, delivered a friendly and fraternal message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to the founding chairman of the Popular Movement of the Revolution and president of the Republic and to all the Zairian people.

He took this opportunity to present his New Year's wishes and those of the Senegalese parliamentarians to their Zairian counterparts. The schedule of the delegation's sojourn in Zaire includes visits to Matadi, Gbado-Lite, and Goma.

The delegation was welcomed by Citizen Kasongo Mukundi, Legislative Council chairman, Papa Abdou Sisse, the Senegalese ambassador to Zaire, and Citizen Fundi, vice-governor in charge of administration.

Local, General Elections To Begin 31 May
AB131620 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The year 1987 will be marked by several events expected to bring changes in our country's political scene. First are the elections to be held in the forthcoming months. The dates for these elections are contained in a decree that has just been published. Voting will be for members of the Legislative Council, of the regional assemblies, and of town, zonal, and district councils. Voting will take place between 31 May 1987 and 6 September 1987.

According to the electoral timetable, Zairians of voting age will first vote on 31 May for members of the district councils, and then they will vote for members of the town and zonal councils on 26 July. Zairians will vote for members of the regional assemblies on 24 August, and finally general elections will be held on 6 September.

Details on these elections may be found in your local dailies.

AZAP Condemns World Indifference to Chad
AB091120 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0758 GMT 9 Jan 87

[AZAP commentary — "Chad: A Guilty Silence"]

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 9 Jan (AZAP) — At a time when the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] are engaged in a liberation war in northern Chad against Libyan occupants to recover the entire national territory, African opinion is somewhat petrified by the feeble reaction, or even the indifference, shown by a great number of countries in Africa and throughout the world.

The entire world does not seem to be affected by the Chadian tragedy which has lasted too long and which has led the country to ruins, killing its most valiant sons in conflicts that are only beneficial to external interests. [passage omitted]

Curiously, the aggression by Libyan troops has only received timid and mitigated world reaction. The OAU, whose duty it is to solve conflicts between its members, has adopted a hesitant and ambiguous attitude; the United Nations shows clear indifference, in spite of repeated appeals by Ndjamena to denounce the Libyan occupation and aggression.

France and the United States certainly give considerable materiel and logistic support to President Hissein Habre's government, but this assistance appears to be insufficient in the face of Libya's great means and military power. [passage omitted]

In Africa, only a few countries have taken a clear position on the Chadian tragedy. And it is not only by accident that the Chadian people, during the demonstrations of support for President Habre organized in Ndjamena last Tuesday, paid homage to a few African countries, including Zaire, for their courageous position.

Certain persons easily attribute this lack of reaction to ideological differences. However, it seems reasonable to look elsewhere for the true motive behind this guilty silence on the Chadian issue. Could it be fear of retaliation or rather the concern to safeguard sordid interests?

Whatever the case may be, this wait and see attitude to such a clear situation must be denounced. From the viewpoint of African solidarity, it is abnormal to leave one's neighbor's hut to burn without acting, without going to his rescue.

Where Zaire is concerned, the position of the MPR founding chairman was made clear right from the beginning of the Chadian conflict. Our country has always responded positively to each appeal from the legitimate authorities in Chad.

Within the framework of the active cooperation between Kinshasa and Ndjamena, Zaire has just concluded the training of two battalions of Chadian commandos and expects the arrival of a third.

This is aimed at helping a sister country to better ensure its security and to guarantee the defense of its territory. In this regard, Marshal Mobutu has performed and continues to perform his duty to Africa.

IVORY COAST

Radio: Economy, Security Focus of Shultz Visit

AB131146 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
0745 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Ivorian leg will certainly be the one of the highlights of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of Africa, first of all because Ivory Coast is one of the countries in the subregion whose relations with the United States has never deteriorated. Rather, their bilateral relations are strengthened and diversified year after year. In the economic field, U.S. investments in our country are estimated to be in the billions [CFA francs], while the United States is among Ivory Coast's foremost foreign customers in the commercial field. In return, our country purchases the greater part of its equipment from the U.S. markets. In the political field, both countries have similar stands on most major international issues. This similarity in both countries' political views explains why President Houphouet-Boigny has been invited to conduct official visits to Washington on four occasions.

The second reason why the Ivorian leg is important is the nature of the message Shultz has brought and to the stature of his host. The economic and security problems confronting the continent, the main themes that the U.S. secretary of state has been discussing since he began his tour, constitute the major concern of the Ivorian authorities. Although Ivory Coast is not so much affected by this kind of crisis as the other countries of the continent, it is, nonetheless, sensitive to the phenomenon. And President Houphouet-Boigny is certainly one of the African presidentswho has quite often drawn the Western world's attention to the situation currently confronting Africa; namely, a perpetually collapsing economy and an almost endemic insecurity.

Wherever he is, the head of state never misses an opportunity to raise these various problems. One still remembers that during his recent official visit to Washington 3 years ago, he solemnly and publicly called on the Western world to open its eyes widely to see Africa's disastrous condition. In this regard, the president's argument is clear and unequivocal; he immediately announced his economic policy — that is liberalism, which he has freely chosen and will pursue.

However, he criticizes some aspects of the system which, according to him, seem to be characterized by injustice. For example, that sacrosanct law of supply and demand under which many developing countries are denied the proceeds of their raw materials due to the low purchasing price of these raw materials.

As for the speculators, he does not spare them and readily accuses them of being irresponsible and the cause of the evils befalling the developing countries.

Regarding the current African situation, President Houphouet-Boigny only sees one solution; namely, foreign aid, which some countries badly need to improve their inhabitants' lot. In 1983, the president pointed this out to Reagan; we still remember the sentence he uttered and which made the headlines of newspapers everywhere: Aiding Africa, he said, is helping oneself in safeguarding peace because it is well known to everyone that political instability and insecurity are partly linked to misery and lack of progress. In other words, misery is a bad adviser. Ideology mongers and arms dealers who offer to travel to these countries of economic difficulty are well aware of this. Countries where inhabitants are plagued by poverty and hunger are easily more willing than others to heed foreign instigators and to demonstrate. There is no other way of destabilizing and instability has no other.

As a matter of fact, there will be true security and stability in Africa only with economically strong countries free from misery, hunger, and poverty. And before these countries can pursue and improve their prosperity, they need peace. All these points are very dear to the president and, certainly, he will once again discuss them with the U.S. secretary of state during their talks this afternoon.

LIBERIA

New NDPL Executive Committee Constituted

AB111841 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] A new executive committee has been constituted to assist in running the affairs of the task force of the National Democratic Party of Liberia by the national chairman of the force, Mr Prince Toe. Members of the committee include Mr (Samuel Tsitu), vice national chairman for administration; (Amos J.A. Nimeney), secretary general; (James Laweyen Dense), treasurer; among others. Mr Toe told newsmen at the party headquarters recently that the committee would ensure effective and efficient control of the task force.

Mr Toe has meanwhile urged members of the task force to remain loyal to the party's leadership and to work assiduously for growth and development of the party.

NIGERIA

Commentary Examines Shultz Visit to Africa

AB140613 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Alex Ekeanyawo commentary]

[Text] When the ongoing tour of some African states by the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, was officially announced in Washington, analysts were of the view that the tour could afford many African leaders the opportunity to look the American official straight in the eyes and [word indistinct] him with aspects of the U.S. African policy that have been sources of sanctions of concern and disappointment.

Among these are the effectiveness of sanctions and bringing about an end to apartheid, the issue of Namibia's independence, U.S. support for UNITA rebels in Angola and of course her

involvement in the crisis in Chad. On all these issues, the American position has been at variance with the thinking of the rest of Africa. Persistent representations of them to Chester Crocker, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs and the architect of U.S. African policy, have not yielded any results worth talking about. To some people, this is an indication that Africa and her problems are not high on the priority list of the U.S. Government, in so far as her interests in the continent are not jeopardized.

Explaining the rationale for his 6-nation African tour, Mr Shultz said it was meant to show his country's commitment to Africa and to acquaint himself with the realities of Africa. He also stated that the Reagan administration has been focusing quite understanding attention on African issues. Nevertheless, the visit must be explained beyond the reasons Secretary Shultz enumerated. Events in South Africa have over the months pricked the conscience of the American public. They have since expressed their resentment through a series of protest actions across major cities. They influenced their elected representatives to override a presidential veto on a bill imposing scanctions on South Africa.

In fact, the array of big American companies that have since withdrawn their business interests in South Africa is indicative of the climate of opinion about U.S. policy in Africa.

Even though Secretary Shultz said before leaving Washington that stiffer sanctions could not bring about change in South Africa, the thinking of a cross section of American voters had definitely made an impression on the Reagan administration. His week-long tour of Africa supports this argument. It has long been accepted that the policy of constructive engagement has become irrelevant. Yet Washington has continued to frown at the legitimate problems of Cuban troops in Angola.

To even up, the administration has extended diplomatic and military support to UNITA rebels fighting to topple the government in Luanda. It was even restated in Kenya that the United States will continue to arm the rebels so long as Cuban troops were in Angola. Whatever the case, Mr Shultz' visit to Africa should be seen as a positive development.

If by the visit the United States is extending the olive branch, Africa will undoubtedly reciprocate accordingly, provided the United States fully appreciates the symbolism attached to an olive branch. The capacity of the Reagan administration to influence the course of events in a positive direction is not in doubt. What has been lacking is the will. The proposed meeting between the secretary of state and the leader of the African National Congress ANC, Oliver Tambo, later in the month is and indication of this. If the United States still wishes to be identified as the propagator of democracy and defender of human rights, she must do away with the ambivalence that has characterized her African policy. The series of discussions Secretary of State Shultz held with officials of the countries he visited will no doubt gave him a clear picture of the situtation in Africa. And if this is the case, he is duty-bound to advise President Reagan on a possible review of his African policy.

Paper Questions Army Plan To Acquire PRC Weapons

AB131352 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The plan by the Armed Forces to buy Chinese weapons engages the attention of the *Nigerian Tribune*. It wants the authorities to critically consider if the acquisiton of the weapons will not worsen the operational problems of the Armed Forces.

Above all, the paper believes that the accessibility of Chinese military technology is of doubtful advantage. The *Tribune* says if the military insists on buying the weapons from China, they should ensure that only the best in purchased.

Newspapers Praise ANC on 75th Anniversary

AB131033 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 13 Jan 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *New Nigerian* and the *National Concord* write on the 75th anniversary of the ANC. The papers note that the congress has, since its inception, performed creditably as the vanguard of the black man's revolutionary struggle in South Africa.

Nonetheless, the *New Nigerian* believes that the historic challenge facing the ANC is to transform itself from being a perpetual liberation movement into one capable of wrenching power and assuming control of South Africa. It says while the burden of physical participation remains that of the Congress, the Federal Government should set up material and diplomatic assistance for the movement.

The *Concord*, on its part, pays tribute to the memories of ANC's fallen heroes and salutes the undaunted courage and steadfastness of its present leadership. The paper urges all men of peace and goodwill to recognize the ANC's struggle in South Africa as part of the universal crusade towards restoring the dignity of man.

ANGOLA

Official Talks Begin With GDR Justice Minister

MB140924 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Angolan Justice Minister Franca van Dunem and his GDR counterpart, Hans-Joachim Heusinger, commenced official talks in Luanda yesterday to exchange views. [passage indistinct]. Hans Heusinger began by recalling the signing in 1981 of an agreement between Angola and the GDR on mutual judicial assistance which he considered very important for judicial cooperation. Speaking at the beginning of the talks yesterday, Hans Heusinger criticized the U.S. policy which he said opposes the peoples' interest. He defended the peace proposals presented by the USSR.

Minister Hans Heusinger will be received by Comrade Juliao Paulo Dino Matross, MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee secretary for state and judicial bodies, and by Angolan Attorney General Comrade Antero de Abreu.

BOTSWANA

Chiepe: No Border Problems With Bophuthatswana

MB140651 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1910 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The minister for external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, says Botswana does not have any border problems with Bophutatswana. Dr Chiepe was speaking in an interview with a South Africa-based London television network reporter, Mr Chris Moore at the *Gaborone Sun* today. She told Mr Moore, who works for Visnews television, of the 31 December telex message to the office of the president of Bophutatswana demanding that Botswana who wish to visit Bophutatswana obtain visas before taking such visits. She said no reason was given for the visa demand but told Mr Moore that the government had already acquired forms from Bophutatswana to be used by Botswana prepared to endure such visits. Procedures to this effect have already been explained through the private and government media.

Responding to a question from Mr Moore, Dr Chiepe said she was not aware of demands by Bophutatswana to recognize it as an independent state. She said as far as she was concerned, Botswana had not been officially approached by Bophutatswana on that question. She also told the journalists that Botswana was not in a position to provoke Bophutatswana, never had been and never will do so.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Speaks at People's Assembly Opening

MB131921 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] President Chissano says South Africa not only wants to hinder Mozambique's development but to install a puppet regime and create more bantustans in the region. Addressing the opening session of Mozambique's second legislature, President Chissano said apartheid remains the only source of violence and the only threat to peace in the region. He said in the face of South African aggression, the states of the region have the right to individual and collective defense and will not accept the replacement of colonialism by the bantustanization of the region.

The Mozambican leader noted that the destabilization of Mozambique through the MNR bandits forms an integral part of the interests of the apartheid regime in trying to keep the countries of southern Africa under is yoke. The elimination of the MNR, he said, is the principal task imposed on Mozambique and that is the struggle in which there can be no hesitations and no compromises of any kind.

President Chissano said the Mozambican economy, including the fall in agricultural production and the collapse in exports, was largely due to the South African aggression through the MNR. President Chissano said the other major task facing the Mozambican people was economic recovery, which would have to go hand in hand with fighting the war. He warned that without economic recovery there can be no victory in the war, nor can the country wait for economic recovery before we win the war. President Chissano pointed out that some economic progress had already been achieved. He said in 1986 production in certain sectors, notably the ports and railways [word indistinct] construction, was an improvement on 1985. He said, however, that this had little impact on the lives of the people due to the absence of agricultural recovery in 1986. The president said in its program for economic recovery the government must be [words indistinct] gradually to eliminate the serious financial imbalances. As rapidly as possible state deficits should be eliminated, he said.

President Chissano thanked the international community for assisting Mozambique after the tragic death of Samora Machel. He singled out Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe for special praise and Botswana and Zambia for giving help within their possible [word indistinct].

President Chissano (?has) said that the recent security agreement signed between Mozambique and Malawi should end maneuvers designed to make that country a launching pad for destabilization of Mozambique. The Mozambican leader told delegates in today's session of the People's Assembly that through the accord it could also be possible to defend Malawi's natural route to the sea through Mozmabique and to ensure the cohesion of the regional alliance SADCC. President Chissano paid homage to the work of his predecessor, Samora Machel, on whose initiative the joint security commission between Mozambique and Malawi had been established.

Proceedings Detailed

MB132016 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Today's proceedings of the first session of the People's Assembly second legislature concluded a few moments ago. Here is an on-the-spot report from our colleagues covering the event:

[Unidentified reporter] The People's Assembly deputies heard a report this evening from the commission of inquiry into the causes of the tragic incident which led to the death of President Samora Machel.

Information regarding the revision of the Republic's Constitution was presented by Marcelino dos Santos, chairman of the People's Assembly. Marcelino dos Santos was unanimously and by ovation elected to this post early this evening. The post of the People's Assembly chairman has now been established at the first session of the second legislature of the state power's supreme body within the framework of (?division) of tasks.

Also elected on the occasion was the People's Assembly Standing Commission comprising 20 members. During today's session, the deputies proclaimed as valid the process of the second general elections. Accordingly, they declared valid all the established people's assemblies. The approved resolution also extends the mandate of the National Elections Commission. The provincial commissions in the areas where it was not possible to hold elections also will continue to function.

NAMIBIA

One White School Applies for 'Open' Status

MB131602 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 12 Jan 87 p 1

[By Jean Sutherland]

[Text] Only one white school has so far applied to the Administration for Whites to go "open", white exco [executive committee] chairman Kosie Pretorius said today.

He was reacting to reports that Education Minister Andrew Matjila had threatened court action against any individual or teacher who refused admission to a child on the grounds of race or colour.

School committee sources say the issue has not yet been broached at the Windhoek English high school, Centaurus.

While the sensitive issue has been discussed at Windhoek's English and German-medium primary schools, Emma Hoogenout and the Deutsche Schule Windhoek, no final decision has been taken.

English and German medium schools have been widely seen as the most likely to "go open".

And, with 1987 barely 12 days old, the "open schools" issue is already threatening to provoke a bitter confrontation between the Transitional Government and the White Administration.

But, while the debate rages on at national level, there appear to be mixed feelings among parents.

On the national front, the opening salvo was fired by Education Minister Mr Andrew Matjila who today hit out at the White Administration's refusal to open schools.

"It is a flagrant violation of the Bill of Rights," he said emphatically.

Mr Matjila warned that anyone at any school who denied a child admission on the grounds of race or colour would be subject to court action.

Reacting to media reports, Mr Pretorius said the administration would act according to existing legislation.

The relevant ordinance stipulates that a child can only be accepted at a white school, if he or she is classified white.

Mr Pretorius said the administration stood by last year's decision, which requires school committees to decide on the matter.

They are then obliged to approach the director of education and the white executive, who review the situation.

Mr Pretorius said only Swakopmund's English medium primary school had taken this step.

As the request had been received at a late stage, it was still being examined, he added.

Mr Matjila said if the White Administration did not want to participate in national unity, "something else will have to be done to force them to conform to decisions of the National Assembly [NA]; otherwise, it makes the whole Assembly look stupid."

He pointed out that the NA had the power to repeal AG8. The only reason they had not done so before, he added, was there had been confusion over the powers of the Cabinet and NA.

"This year we are going to use them."

SOUTH AFRICA

Easing of Regulations for Election Considered

MB131558 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 13 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[By Tony Stirling]

[Text] The government is considering steps to enable candidates of parties fighting the general election to conduct their campaigns free of the restrictions of the emergency regulations.

It is understood from top level sources that the idea of temporarily lifting the emergency regulations for the duration of this year's election for a maximum period of about 56 days has been rejected by the government.

Ways are, however, being sought to enable political parties and candidates particpating in the election to do so free of certain regulations which might serve to limit the type of criticism that could be levelled at the government.

No firm decision in this regard has yet been taken, according to the sources.

It is believed that the government's thinking on the matter is that a general lifting of the emergency might not only rekindle unrest, but create a climate unfavourable for any election.

However, in seeking a new mandate from the electorate, it is also considered important for the election to be held under conditions which would not enable opposition parties to suggest that the government's mandate was flawed because of limitations imposed on the parties by the emergency regulations.

Mr Dave Dalling, the PFP MP for Sandton and the party's spokesman on the media made it clear yesterday that PFP candidates in the election, which is to be held before mid-year, would raise the relevant issues and defy the emergency regulations where this was considered necessary.

He said the Official Opposition would not be silenced by regulations during the election and had a duty to raise a number of matters affected by the regulations.

"The PFP candidates will raise relevant issues and not be silenced by the regulations," he said.

Central to the PFP's opposition to the government because [as published] of its views on race relations, civil liberties and the economy were issues relating to unrest, police actions, the situation of people in detention, and the state of emergency.

"The mind boggles at the suggestion of Mr Stoffel Botha (Minister of Home Affairs) that he did not see the necessity of lifting the regulations because of the election."

He said that the effects the emergency regulations would have on the holding of free and fair elections would be one of the most serious issues the PFP would raise in the No Confidence Debate after Parliament re-convenes on January 30.

Mr Dalling said the PFP had received indications that certain newspapers would for purposes of election coverage also defy the regulations.

It was "unthinkable" for the PFP to be able to conduct a proper election campaign under the current restrictions.

The HNP leader, Mr Jaap Marais, said that although the regulations would hamper opposition parties in any election campaign, it was difficult to see how the government could lift the regulations in any fashion without running the risk of re-creating conditions that the regulations were designed to halt.

He could not envisage circumstances in which an election could be held at present in which criticism would not be raised that the government's mandate was flawed.

"If the regulations were lifted in respect of candidates and officials of parties fighting the election, would this also apply to newspapers reporting on the elections?," he asked.

If such lassitude was permitted, it could quickly recreate the very conditions which the emergency was designed to deal with.

He doubted that the government would act against any candidate in the election who went beyond the regulations in criticising it because of the repercussions this was bound to have.

Mr Clive Derby-Lewis, Press Liaison officer of the CP, said that his party's candidates would definitely not act outside the confines of the law during the coming election compaign.

The Conservative Party had many grounds beyond those covered by the emergency regulations on which to criticise the government, and the party's campaign would not be unduly hampered by such limitations as imposed by the emergency.

Aviation Experts Arrive for Machel Crash Inquiry

MB131218 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1133 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 13 SAPA — The three international aviation experts serving on the board of inquiry into the air crash in which President Samora Machel was killed last year arrived in South Africa this morning. Colonel Frank Borman of the United States and Sir Edward Eveleigh and Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, both of Britain, arrived at Jan Smuts Airport from London.

The South African commission of inquiry into the crash near Komatipoort last October will be chaired by Mr Justice Cecil Margo. The South African members of the board include the MD [managing director] of Commercial Airways, Mr Pieter van Hoven, Mr Jacques Germinhys, a member of the South African National Transport Commission and a retired commissioner of civil aviation.

The hearing starts on Jan 20 in the Rand Supreme Court.

A Johannesburg newspaper reports Col Borman was commander of the Apollo 8 mission which made the first lunar orbit. He was chief test pilot for the U.S. Air Force and president and chief executive of Eastern Airlines.

Sir Edward had previous experience in inquiries into major aircraft accidents, the newspaper said.

Mr Wilkinson was an experimental test pilot and was one of the few Westerners to have flown a Soviet-made Tupolev 134a, the type of plane in which President Machel died, the newspaper reports.

The inquiry will also investigate a possible infringement of the sub judice rule after a story in an Afrikaans Johannebsurg morning paper alleged the plane's instruments had been tampered with before experts could examine them.

Modise: ANC's Guerrilla War 'To Escalate'

MB140647 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1910 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The commander of the African National Congress military wing, Mr Joe Modise, said today that the ANC intends to

escalate its guerrilla war against South Africa's apartheid system by striking strategic targets in white urban areas and at white farmers. In an interview with the French news agency, AFP, Mr Modise said the ANC's members are mushrooming inside South Africa and are operating in every corner of the country. He said the ANC is going to make it impossible for the South African Government to rule the country, adding that the country will become ungovernable and insecure.

Tambo Previews Upcoming Meeting With Shultz

MB131927 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The president of the African National Congress, ANC of South Africa, Comrade Oliver Tambo, says he will persuade the Reagan administration to change its foreign policy towards southern Africa when he meets the American secretary of state, George Shultz, at the end of this month in Washington. He was speaking in an interview with the ZBC in Harare today. Comrade Tambo said he will impress on Mr Shultz the need for the United States to take some action against the Pretoria regime.

Speaks on Resistance Efforts

MB140658 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] The president of the African National Congress, ANC, of South Africa, Comrade Oliver Tambo, said the countrywide state of emergency imposed by the South African regime has failed in the face of intensified resistance by the oppressed masses to government's inhuman apartheid laws. Speaking in a televised interview last night, Comrade Tambo said, like the Zimbabwean struggle, the struggle in South Africa is growing by leaps and bounds, with the masses taking the initiative to free themselves from the murderous regime. Comrade Tambo said in the face of this onslaught the second state of emergency imposed by the South African regime has failed, as the oppressed people have organized themselves and hit back.

The ANC president said the South African struggle, unlike other resistance worldwide, is unique in the sense that the African National Congress doesn't have bases in neighboring countries from which to operate but has to fight from within. Comrade Tambo added that, to this end, it has become necessary for the party to mobilize and politicize the masses to render South Africa ungovernable and upset the state of emergency.

Talks Deadlocked Over Four Held by Zambia

MB140543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] There is a deadlock in negotiations with the Zambian Government to free four South Africans being held in Lusaka. Our Pretoria news staff reports that the four agricultural engineers, Mr Rudolph Ottoman, Mr Randolph Keyser, Mr Bernhard Koch, and Mr Duncan Vause, have been held in a jail in Lusaka for 7 and 1/2 months without being brought to trial.

There was talk towards the end of last year that they would be released before Christmas, but the Zambian head of state, President Kenneth Kaunda apparently decided against this.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said in Pretoria that negotitiatons with the Zambian Government were hampered by the fact that South Africa did not have diplomatic representatives in the country.

The four South Africans, who are in good health according to their legal representative, were arrested shortly after South Africa's attack on ANC targets in Zambia.

Meanwhile a British citizen and two Germans who were arrested at the same time have been released after representations by their countries' embassies in the country.

Kaunda: Document To Overthrow Malawi 'Authentic'

MB131551 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 13 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[By Max du Preez]

[Text] Lusaka — The document exposed by SA last year, which alleged a conspiracy between Mozambique and Zimbabwe to destabilise Malawi, was authentic, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has said.

A senior Zambian government source said Kaunda had personally told Malawian President Kamuzu Banda that the document was authentic and that he had been approached by former Mozambican President Samora Machel and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe for his cooperation in anti-Malawi campaign.

The document was found by SA security forces in the wreck of the aircraft in which Machel died on October 19. It contained a transcript of a meeting between Machel and Zimbabwean Cabinet Ministers Emmerson Munangagwa and E.R. Kandungure as well as Zimbabwean Army Commander Rex Nhongo and others.

The Zimbabwe and Mozambique governments later vehemently denied the conspiracy and said the document had been forged by SA.

But the source said Kaunda told Banda he had refused to co-operate with the plans, which included the closing of the Zambian border with Malawi.

Machel was quoted in the transcript as saying: "President Kaunda did not guarantee the closing of the border with Malawi. We put the question today and his answer was not satisfactory."

The conspiracy, aimed at forcing the MNR out of Malawi, included the blowing up of bridges and roads in Malawi linking it to neighbouring states and starting a Malawi Liberation Front to overthrow the Banda government.

The source said the conspiracy had increased the tension between Kaunda and Mugabe.

He said Kaunda and his government had resented Mugabe's pressure on Zambia to implement sanctions against SA and cut all air links.

Confirmation Vindicates RSA

MB140810 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Station commentary: "The Conspiracy Against Malawi"]

[Text] Reports that President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has authenticated the document alleging a conspiracy between Mozambique and Zimbabwe to destablize Malawi is of great significance for the whole of southern Africa.

At the time, Mozambique and Zimbabwe denied the conspiracy and accused South Africa of forging the document which had been found in the wreckage of the airliner in which former Mozambican President Samora Machel died on 19 October last year.

The document reflects the minutes of a meeting in Maputo on 16 October, 3 days before the crash, between President Machel and a 9-man delegation from Zimbabwe. The plan included the infiltration of Malawi's police and defense forces, the destruction of bridges, and the country's infrastructures, and the cutting off of Malawi from its trade routes through Zambia and Tanzania.

In denying the document as a falsehood, Mozambique and Zimbabwe claimed that South Africa had produced it to try to divert attention from the causes of President Machel's death. If South Africa had faked the paper it would obviously run the risk of having papers exposed as such. Instead of that happening, however, President Kaunda is reported to have personally told President Kamuzu Banda that the document was authentic, and that he had been approached by President Machel and Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe for his cooperation in the anti-Malawi conspiracy. He had refused.

The pretext to the campaign against President Banda and his country was his supposed support for the Mozambican Liberation Movement, Renamo. Also involved in the conspiracy were the governments of the Soviet Union and Cuba, two of the communist countries which for many years have been the destabilizers of southern Africa while the blame has been consistently laid at South Africa's door.

Aside from vindicating South Africa, this latest development adds to the mounting evidence that Mr Mugabe is trying to be the strongman of southern Africa. He stated categorically recently that he would not tolerate a Renamo movement in Mozambique, and he has obviously been putting pressure on Zambia to implement sanctions against South Africa.

The implications of all this are highly significant for the future of southern Africa. Most important is that at the very least, it should cast serious doubts about South Africa being the destabilizing factor in the region.

Johannesburg Comments on Possible 'Trade War'

MB140523 Johannesburg Domestic Service

in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The unrest in international exchange markets and the resultant rise in the gold price are essentially the outcome of deep-rooted problems in today's world. One of the most important is certainly the weakening of the American economy and the threat it holds of an international trade war — an eventuality which would closely concern South Africa.

The strong growth that has characterized the Reagan era up to now is evidently coming to an end, and concern is growing world-wide about America's ever-increasing international debt. Strange as it seems, the debt is due to that fantastically wealthy country living beyond its means. It is simply not earning enough from its exports to pay for the huge stream of goods being imported from Europe, Japan and elsewhere. The reaction in the American Congress has been a more insistent call for protective measures to place curbs on imports.

This is in direct conflict with the policy followed by President Ronald Reagan, a committed supporter of free trade. It was largely thanks to the Reagan policy that the American economy flourished as it did in recent years. His presidency created unprecedented confidence in his country in the business community, as well as in countries like Japan and West Germany. While large trade deficits were mounting, international investors showed their confidence in President Reagan and the strength of the American economy by making up the deficits with new investments.

Other factors — like the fall in international energy prices, especially oil — contributed to the economic revival in America and other big industrial states. Inflation was reduced to very low levels, which also led to greater stability in exchange markets.

Now the pendulum has begun to swing back. Confidence in President Reagan and America is declining in the wake of recent developments, including the election of a Democrat-controlled Senate with substantially different views from the President's. At the same time, as trade remains in deficit month after month, the national debt continues to rise. Internally the situation is similar. Public authorities are spending far more than they are receiving in taxes, and the constant borrowing to make up the difference is anything but conducive to confidence. Meanwhile international energy prices have begun rising again, raising the spectre of renewed inflation in the West.

It is against this background of concern about America and a possible trade war with its big partners in Europe and Japan that unrest has broken out on the markets. South Africa's currency is also affected, especially because of the underpinning it enjoys from gold. The metal has always been an anchor of confidence, and its present price rise confirms that it retains that status. That is good news for the moderate economic improvement that is evidently under way in South Africa. Strength may also be drawn from the fact that, having made the necessary sacrifices, the

country is living within its means.

'Going Rate' for RSA Debt Same as Mexico

MB131556 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 13 Jan 87 p 1

[By Harold Fridjhon]

[Text] U.S. banks are selling SA debt to foreign institutions at a discount of 42c in the dollar, according to American reports which suggest that investors and bankers in the U.S. show no signs of regaining confidence in S.A.

An international banker based in Johannesbrug say he has heard of deals in SA paper at about 57c, but that as far as he knows, the market, which is based in Europe and not in the U.S., is very thin and unrepresentative.

What deals there might have been probably involved small U.S. banks whose exposure was very modest — between $5m and $10m — and which for their own reasons wanted to get the SA investments off their books.

Reputable banks still holding SA debt expect to get their 100c in the dollar, the international banker believes.

The U.S. report says that the going rate for SA debt is the same as that for Mexican debt and below the 79c of Brazilian paper.

The buyers are said to be German and Swiss banks.

Indaba Presents Constitution Proposals to Heunis

MB131947 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1942 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] Cape Town Jan 13 SAPA — A delegation from the Natal Indaba today handed its proposals for a constitution in the Natal/KwaZulu region to the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis.

The Indaba chairman, Prof Desmond Clarence, the New Republic Party's representative, Mr Frank Martin, and Dr Oscar Dhlomo of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, officially handed the Indaba findings to Mr Heunis — who said he could not comment on the proposals until he had studied them. He also said he would like to consult with the two authorities that had initiated the Indaba, namely the Natal Provincial Government and the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly before discussing the proposals.

At a press conference after the handing over of the documents, Prof Clarence said he expected the government to give its views of the Indaba proposals early in the forthcoming parliamentary session. He said he had asked Mr Heunis if he would be willing to hold a referendum on the proposals, to which the minister had replied that he would consider testing the opinion of the people in the region — if certain conditions laid down by the government were met.

Mr Martin said he was certain that the overwhelming majority of South Africans favour a negotiated political settlement and the Indaba was a model for that. Dr Dhlomo said if the government rejected the Indaba proposals the prospect for negotiational politics were nil.

Information Bureau Issues 13 Jan Unrest Report

MB150757 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0744 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Pretoria Jan 14 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report: "Unrest report for the period January 13: 00h01 to 23h59.

"Only a few incidents, mostly stone-throwing, were reported from only three police districts. No casualties were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

14 Jan Press Review

MB140639 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN on Elections

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 13 January says in its page 6 editorial that "it's going to be one of the toughest elections in years," and that the press curbs are not going to prohibit the opposition from attacking the government. But, even though the government will not go before the electorate "with a complete reform plan," the government "has several factors in its favour. The first is that it is a law and order government — and the public wants above all else, law and order. Secondly, for those who favour reform, its policy of controlled reform will be better than the hand-over-to-the Blacks policy of the PFP. Thirdly, it will be on its response to overseas sanctions and pressures that the government will score most, since many South Africans, whatever their gripes, will stand firmly behind the government in telling the world to leave South Africa alone."

THE STAR on OK Worker Strike

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 13 January comments on the OK Bazaars worker strike noting that the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union (CCAWUSA) says its members at OK earn on average 265 Rand a month, and less in outlying areas, and "need at least R160 to bring their wages anywhere near the breadline. The union which denies any links with the bombs, is being supported in an unprecedented move by both the major black union federations. OK denies CCAWUSA's 'slave wages' claims but refuses to divulge exact wages." The paper says "it's time for flexibility, creativity and imagination from OK and the union to settle this dispute. A little statesmanship and good conscience could go a long way to cool tempers and repair damaged reputations on both sides."

BUSINESS DAY on P.W. Botha Mandate Failure

"Does it make sense to give a mandate to a party that cannot honour its mandate?" asks Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 13 January in page 4 editorial. President Botha got his mandate in 1983 "and he has made a catastrophe." "Reform has been bungled," and "the economy has been looted to create a

vast, overbearing bureacracy, and the currency has been ruined." "President Botha's remaining supporters whimper self-pityingly that it is all the fault of their enemies, of the Americans or the Soviets, of Europe and Africa and Australia, or that of the old standby, the Englelse Pers [English Press]." "It has been enough. This country, if it is to survive, must have a new vision of itself and its future. It must have new men to articulate its hopes and to lead it. Failed apartheid has become failed reform."

RSA Can Kill U.S.-ANC Understanding

On the same page Simon Barber writes from Washington that "the Reagan administration has spent the last six years trying to create conditions under which Pretoria would act in its own and the West's best interest by ceasing, of its own accord, to be a tyranny. In the American view, the effort has proved an object failure." "Having failed to persuade the Nationalist government — the one actor who had it in its power to defuse the SA crisis by a series of bold decisions of its own making — to act in the interest of its people and their future generations, the Reagan administration is now diverting its energies and prestige to enlisting the opposition phalanx, including but most assuredly not exclusively the ANC." However, "Pretoria will always have the power to kill any understanding the U.S. and the ANC may reach. Increased repression empowers the SACP and will create further political demands for Washington to destroy the SA economy with heightened sanctions — demands that Washington will be loath to take, thus deepening the ANC's suspicions of its true aims." "After a period of dangerous drift which let in a series of disastrous mistakes, the Reagan administration — or, one should rather say, Shultz and his advisers — are at last being allowed to do the right thing. Unfortunately, even the right thing promises to be a complete waste of time so long as SA is ruled as it is."

CAPE TIMES on Talks With ANC

A page 6 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 12 January says: "The Botha government is showing signs of panic. It is rudderless and floundering and has settled on a flag-waving whites-only election as a means of mobilizing its waning support. Not knowing what to do next, President Botha has opted for repression of black aspirations and withdrawal into laager to defy the world as the economy lags and unemployment soars." But, "sooner of later there will have to be negotiation. Why wait until the contending forces of black nationalism and Afrikaner nationalism have fought each other to a standstill, destroying the economic infrastructure and tearing apart the social fabric of the country in the process. Let the case for talking to the ANC coninue to be put, where legally possible until reason prevails."

SOWETAN on Tutu, Racism

A page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 13 January says: "The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, has stirred up a storm that has swept Australia where he is on tour. Archbishop Tutu is gathering over his shoulders the mantle of the turbulent priest par excellence. The problem is racism, which shows itself in various insiduous ways throughout the world. The South African Government can salute the archbishop for exposing the hypocrisy that lies under some guilty racist consciences in some parts of the world." "Archbishop Tutu is perhaps unwittingly lancing the boil of this cancerous disease that has caused so much misery and distress in many parts of the world."

BEELD Opposes Correspondent Visa Denial

"The government does not help its own cause by refusing visas and work permits to foreign correspondents — such it has done with *The New York Times* reporter," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 13 January. "Such newspapers are still going to get their reports from South Africa, but not necessarily from a more professional, well trained journalist. It is more than likely that correspondents who write for money will assume the task — with predictable results." "An open approach and an attempt to correct what is wrong, will be the best counter measure in the long run."

DIE TRANSVALER: ANC Violence Renouncement Unlikely

Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 12 January says in a page 20 editorial that there is "no common ground between the right thinking individual and those individuals who consider dialogue or discussion with such organizations" as the ANC. "And that is the plaintive checkmate situation wherein South Africa finds itself with regard to the ANC." The paper points out that even the U.S. State Department wonders why the ANC is hesitant to renounce violence so that it can be included in the negotiation process in South Africa. "The ANC will have to free itself from the octopus like clutches of Moscow before it can decide to renounce violence. And that doesn't look too easy."

Correction to Beatrix Mine Workforce Resigns

The following correction to the item headlined "Half of Workforce at Beatrix Gold Mine Resigns," published in the 13 January Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT on page U 7, left column, is supplied from Johannesburg SAPA at 1949 GMT on 13 January:

Paragraph five, from last line reads: ...to 150,000 tons." [new graf] "Mr Bruce Evans, chief executive officer of the gold and uranium division of GENCOR [General Mining Union Corporation], points out that of the 3,900 workers who left the Beatrix gold mine in OFS [Orange Free State] today, about 400 of them were dismissed 'for possessing offensive weapons.'" (Adding paragraph)

ZIMBABWE

Matabeleland Elections on Hold Due to Dissidents

MB131714 Harare THE HERALD in English 31 Dec 86 p 5

[By Wilson Dakwa]

[Text] District council election in some parts of Matabeleland North are likely to be postponed until the security situation there improves, the Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development, Cde Enos Chikowore said in Harare yesterday.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Herald*, Cde Chikowore said he had received reports that dissidents had intensified their

campaign against elections in the area.

"The dissidents have resorted to intimidation by issuing threats of assaults, murder and burning of houses. Until we are satisfied that the security situation has improved, elections are not likely to be held."

The minister consulted local politicians and the provincial Governor, Cde Jacob Mudenda, district administrators and local government promotion officers.

Cde Chikowore advised the provincial administrator yesterday to call a meeting with the governor and politicians to assess the present situation.

The areas mainly affected by dissident terror are Kwange, Lupane, Binga and Nkayi.

"Once I have been given a positive report that the situation has improved, then elections can go ahead," said Cde Chikowore.

On remarks made by Cde John Nkomo of ZAPU that elections should go ahead despite the unstable security situation, Cde Chikowore said, "Cde Nkomo is an ordinary person and as an individual, he is free to say anything. I as minister am responsible for both the elections and the people. I am not going to sacrifice the lives of people to please Cde Nkomo".

He said the postponment of elections was not the first time. In the past elections had been postponed in both Matabeleland North and South provinces.

This year the situation in Matabeleland South was better and elections had already been held in some areas. "Where we see that there is room for free and fair elections, we do not hesitate to give the go-ahead."

On the unification of rural and district councils, Cde Chikowore said his ministry was awaiting the final draft of the Bill by law officers, and was confident that the Bill would pass through the next parliamentary session.

Commenting on mal-administration in some councils, the minister warned that his ministry would not hesitate to act against corrupt councillors.

"The situation appears to have improved although there are still a few mal-administration cases. To root out these culprits, we have instituted a system of internal audit and this has proved to be quite successful," Cde Chikowore said.

On the development of growth points, he said the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Development had provided electricity to a number of growth points to help establish industries.

Industries would go a long way in creating jobs and stop people flocking to towns to look for work.

"There is now through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development the new Finance Act in which I as Minister of Local Government, can request the finance minister to declare an area a growth point.

"Once that happens, then investors who might want to put up their businesses will be free to do so. More growth points will be established next year."

In some growth points there were still communication problems. Some were far from communication centres while others suffered from poor roads. "These services are essential if an area is to be declared a growth point," Cde Chikowore said.